Hafa Adai!

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'YES TO 18-12'

DENNIS B. CHAN

Public school students, teacher, and principals stand in support of House Legislative Initiative 18-12 with members of the Board of Education and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan last Friday. This November, voters will get the change to increase funding for PSS to 25 percent of the government's annual budget.

See story on Page 3

HHS revises interpretation of Obamacare in territories

In response to growing concerns about the effect of the Affordable Care Act on health insurance markets in the territories, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has reviewed and revised its legal interpretation of the applicability of the federal law to the territories.

The July 16 letter from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare under HHS, addressed to CNMI Insurance Commissioner Sixto K. Igisomar, states: "After careful review of…the relevant statutory language, HHS has determined that the new provisions of the PHS act enacted in title I…do not apply to the territories."

While this reinterpretation does not release the territories from all provisions of the ACA, it determined specifically that individual or group health insurance issuers in the U.S. territories need not comply with the guaranteed availability, community rating, single risk pool, rate review, medical loss ratio, and essential health benefits provisions of the ACA.

Igisomar hopes this new flexibility with the law will make it easier for local health insurance issuers to accept new applicants for health insurance as soon as possible.

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RELATED NEWS

➤ Kilili: Our goal remains full inclusion in Obamacare. PAGE 2

EPA not confident CUC will meet court deadlines

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» CUC reports tank project's cost up by $1M, but moving along with pipeline

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency still has no confidence that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will meet court-ordered deadlines for the construction of an oil pipeline and fuel tank and other projects.

CUC, through counsel James S. Sirok, however, reported that both the oil pipeline and Tank 102 projects have been moving forward and that the utilities agency continues to take all steps necessary to accomplish these projects.

In CUC's report to federal court last week on the two projects, Sirok disclosed that the Tank 102 project cost has increased by about $1 million.

The tank project involves a 500,000-gallon diesel fuel tank that will replace Tank 010, which has been found to be a source of pollution and is non-repairable.

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CHC now has 33 physicians. PAGE 5
Inos renews state of emergency for CUC. PAGE 6

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Local

ON LOTTERY COMMISSION'S SELECTION OF BEST SUNSHINE

Dela Cruz: Casino is water under the bridge for me

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Acting House speaker Franciso S. Dela Cruz, one of the seven representatives who voted no to a casino on Saipan, said all the questions about who gets the casino license and what company is picked over the other is now beyond him.

"It's water under the bridge for me," said Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) in an interview last week regarding the Lottery Commission's unanimous decision to grant a conditional casino license to Best Sunshine International Ltd.

The acting speaker said he did not vote for any of the casino legislations because he feels that the people of Saipan and the Northern Islands should be given an opportunity to vote on this monumental issue by referendum.

He said when all three legislations about casino were passed, he had nothing to do with it because he always voted "no."

The acting Speaker said whatever the decision is, he would respect that.

Dela Cruz said that during the last session they had, he enumerated some of the things that might happen in the future and that is based on what is happening now. He cited the unsolved murders of the two Chinese couple who were killed in San Vicente and in As Gonno.

In the San Vicente incident that occurred in December 2012, a couple that had just dropped off their child at school were tied and shot inside their own home.

In the As Gonno case that happened last February, Dela Cruz said he believes that the couple were tied in their house and burned to the ground.

"This may be a sign of what the future holds for us," he said.

He stressed the fact that there really has not been a study at all if the Department of Public Safety is capable to handle these types of crimes in the future.

"Is our infrastructure enough? The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for example. Is there enough water, enough power to go with this development?" he asked.

He also mentioned the social ills that a casino may bring to the island.

On the issue of retirees' deferred 25-percent pension, Dela Cruz said all the retirees were there during the session and he told them point blank that there is no question that the 25 percent should be restored back to them.

"I'm just as willing as the next person next to me to give them the 25 percent today if we have the funding," he said.

Dela Cruz said he told the retirees that this legislation is not about the 25 percent, but about the casino that Saipan is going to have.

"That's the biggest issue that I see. The 25 percent, I understand, is very important, but at the expense…," he added.

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Kilili: Our goal remains full inclusion in Obamacare

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) issued the following statement Saturday in response to the announcement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that certain provisions of the Affordable Care Act would no longer be interpreted to apply to the Northern Mariana Islands and other U.S. territories.

"I continue to believe that it is in the best interest of the people of the Northern Marianas to be able to receive federally subsidized health insurance that covers the full range of benefits and is available to everyone no matter what their current or previous medical condition. We deserve the same access to quality, affordable health care as all other Americans.

"I understand that territorial governments have asked for relief from provisions of the Affordable Care Act and that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have responded by reversing a previous decision that guaranteed availability, the essential health benefits standards for insurance coverage, and certain other requirements of the Act apply to territories.

"I, too, asked for some transitional relief up to 2016 so that health insurance in the Northern Marianas did not become unavailable and to help control premium costs. But my request was for a much more focused and temporary hold on the application of the Affordable Care Act than has now been announced.

"I am currently reviewing what this rollback means for the people I represent. I certainly hope that insurance companies that serve the Marianas will not use this decision as a way to reverse improvements in insurance coverage they have already begun to offer, including allowing children up to age 26 to remain on their family policies and adhering to the requirement that insurers spend at least 80 percent of the money they take in providing their customers with health care.

"People in the Northern Marianas—all Americans—should have access to quality, affordable health care. That is and continues to be my goal." ***(PR)***

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PSS rallies community to back 25 pct. for education

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's drive to pass House Legislative Initiative 18-12 was kick started before a crowd of principals, teachers, and students on Friday outside the Commonwealth's Board of Education building in Susupe.

Sablan

Guerrero

Two students unveiled a banner reading "Vote Yes On 18-12: Students First!" to applause from the crowd.

The Legislature unanimously passed the initiative this month to amend the CNMI Constitution and increase PSS' share of the annual government budget from 15 percent to 25 percent.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan said she received a flood of texts from senators and supporters on July 10, telling her of the Senate passing the initiative.

While she asked the crowd to thank their lawmakers, she also pushed the crowd to take the initiative to "the next level" by getting the community at large to vote yes on the initiative in November.

"We're going to need your help, principals, vice principals, teachers, counselors students, parents, and all of our partners," Sablan said.

The commissioner spoke of "four big things" that PSS would like to see established if their budget were to increase.

First, Sablan said, PSS would like to expand the early childhood education program, calling it a "critical stage" in a student's overall success. Second, Sablan said class sizes would ideally be reduced from 30 to 25. The final two improvements are coming to classes fully equipped with necessary supplies and a revamped and modernized public school buildings befitting the 21st century.

While Sablan thanked legislators and encouraged community support, Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero challenged the Legislature to continue to push for a better education for the children of the Commonwealth and the generations to come.

"This initiative is increasing the minimum that the public school is guaranteed. The Constitution currently sets it at 15 percent. Now we're elevating it to 25 percent. There are certain mentalities sometimes with legislators that they are only bound to make the minimum and that's not true, [the minimum] is just to make sure that it doesn't fall below that level."

Guerrero said if budgets are set at the minimum it is very hard for the system to operate but, with more funds, much more improvement in education can be provided.

Last week, the House Ways and Means Committee prefiled fiscal year 2015's budget with an allocation of $32.27 million for PSS. This after the board and PSS asked for a median "$36 million" between Gove. Eloy S. Inos' proposed $32 million budget and their initial endorsed budget of $40 million.

"We need to start looking in terms of what education is going to be like in 20 years, 30 years from now," Guerrero said.

Of the "four big things" Sablan wants for PSS, Guerrero claims the Legislature asked PSS and the board which one is the highest priority and which ones could be taken out.

"I'm not going to answer that question because each one of them is an intricate part of the overall picture of education," Guerrero said. "You cannot reduce class sizes in our schools if you don't even have enough classrooms."

Prosecutor: DeSoto planned his deadly Guam rampage

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A man on trial for murder knew exactly what he was doing when he went on a deadly crash and stabbing rampage in Guam that killed three Japanese tourists and injured 11 others, a prosecutor said in his closing argument Wednesday.

Chad Ryan DeSoto, 22, planned last year's attack and targeted victims who resembled or symbolized a girlfriend who had recently dumped him, Chief Prosecutor Phillip Tydingco said in a nearly three-hour presentation that included video, photographs, charts and audio playback of phone conversations.

The Japanese visitors had arrived on Guam on the morning of the attack. "They came to Guam to celebrate life, and they were confronted with death or a man trying to cause their death," Tydingco said.

Kazuko Uehara, 81, and Rie Sugiyama, 29, were stabbed to death. Hitoshi Yokota, 51, was hit by a car and died in a hospital two days later. The 11 injured included an 8-month-old girl and a 2-year-old girl.

DeSoto has pleaded not guilty by reason of mental illness.

But he knew right from wrong when he barreled his car down a sidewalk, crashed into a convenience store, then got out and stabbed bystanders, the prosecutor said.

"From the evidence, we learned the defendant is highly intelligent, articulate, that he was depressed, angry about his life," Tydingco said.

DeSoto selected the heart of a tourist area "to make certain no one ignores him," Tydingco said.

"Tell this actor, the defendant, that this is not a theater play, this is not a movie script, it's not a TV show for him to get control over his girlfriend," Tydingco said, urging the jury to convict him of aggravated murder and aggravated attempted murder. "Don't let him walk out of here on (a) temporary insanity defense, that he doesn't have mental responsibility, when the evidence shows he does." ***(AP)***

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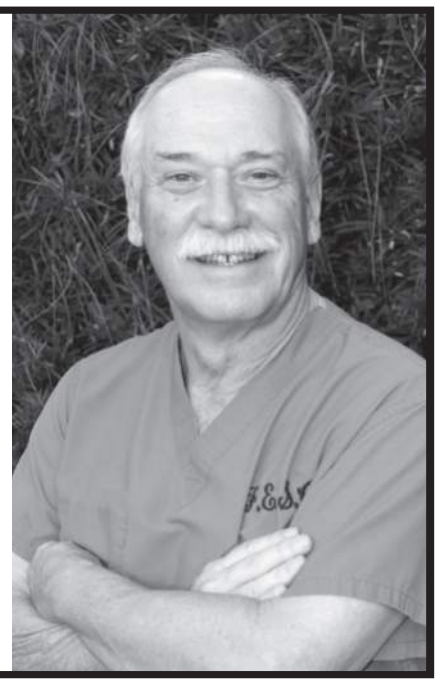

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Budget bill on House agenda tomorrow

The House of Representatives is expected to discuss tomorrow, Tuesday, the Ways and Means Committee's prefiled bill appropriating $137.73 million out of $170 million in estimated revenues for the CNMI government's operations and activities for fiscal year 2015.

Acting House speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) on Friday called for a special session on Tuesday at 1:30pm.

Second on the agenda under House bills is House Bill 18-201 (budget appropriation) that House and Ways Committee chair Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and five other members approved for placement on the House agenda.

First on the agenda is a bill prefiled by Rep. Christopher D. Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) that seeks to establish the offense of abuse of authority/issuance of unlawful orders.

Another bill on the agenda is House Bill 18-202 that seeks to amend Public Law 18-33 to establish the exit of the U.S. Post Office as an official Customs point of entry.

According to Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Cov-Saipan), author of H.B. 18-202, taxable goods and prohibited contraband are making their way into the CNMI via United States mail.

These items, Sablan said, are evading inspection by the Customs Division because Customs officers have limited authority to inspect mail when it arrives at the airport.

Sablan said when a package or letter is delivered to the U.S. Postal Service it remains under the custody of the U.S. Postal Service until it is delivered to the rightful addressee.

As such, he said, for Customs purposes, a package or letter entering the CNMI through the U.S. Postal Service does not officially enter the Commonwealth until it is out of U.S. Postal custody.

To address this issue, the lawmaker said the United States Post Office should be designated as an official entry point for U.S. mail matter.

Sablan's bill is intended to give the Division of Customs the flexibility to inspect packages and mail at the Post Offices after they are released from the custody of the USPC.

The bill also seek to extend the Customs Service's jurisdiction to all points of entry and exit within and between the islands of the CNMI and within 200 miles of the shoreline of any island of the Commonwealth. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CERTIFIED SNIPER FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Police Sgt. Anthony Macaranas shows a sniper rifle, Remington 700, which is one of the weapons issued to him as a police officer and a certified sniper. The weapons and other gadgets belonging to the Department of Public Safety's Tactical Response Enforcement Team were included in the display during the recent Juvenile and Adult Probation and Parole Supervision Week.

EPA

From Page 1

The oil pipeline is an eight-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers diesel fuel to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base from the Mobil oil facility. EPA had stated that until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, it poses a threat to U.S. waters.

Since the pipeline project was initiated in 2010, the cost has ballooned from just $1.8 million then to $6 million this year due to numerous problems that contributed to its delay.

In EPA's report to the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday, U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien said that the U.S. government may soon seek an in-person hearing as it continues to lack confidence that CUC will meet the court ordered deadlines for the construction of the pipeline, tank, and other projects.

O'Brien said CUC's position is that video conferencing is the most efficient manner to present its team to the court for a hearing to discuss issues related to both the pipeline and tank projects.

O'Brien said CUC is still willing and able to appear in person in California on July 28, 2014, in lieu of having to appear in California at a time in the near future at the U.S.' request.

On Feb. 4, 2014, the court issued an order setting an in-person status conference for July 28, 2014, to discuss CUC's progress in meeting the court orders' requirements, including completing the pipeline and tank projects. The hearing will be in the U.S. Courthouse in Santa Ana, California.

O'Brien said it is their position that CUC did not begin the pipeline construction on or before July 14, 2014.

O'Brien said no on-site work such as excavation or civil works has started, and it is the United States' understanding that the pipeline construction manager, Vanderpool Pipeline Engineers Inc., which is responsible for oversight of the construction, is not in CNMI and that no such trip had been scheduled as of July 14, 2014.

O'Brien said the U.S. believes that the preliminary activities described by CUC in its report do not constitute commencement of the pipeline construction as directed by the court.

On Tank 102, O'Brien said the U.S. is concerned that CUC has not made sufficient progress.

The lawyer said EPA approved CUC's proposed contractor, Tano Group Inc., on June 22, 2014, but a contract has not been executed.

"CUC has also failed to provide a Tank 102 construction schedule to the United States, as promised," he said.

Therefore, O'Brien said, the U.S. is requesting that by Aug. 6, 2014, CUC be required to confirm that the contract for Tank 102 construction has been executed along with an approvable construction schedule to EPA.

He said CUC must also be prepared to submit the work plan and associated documents to EPA by Aug. 22, 2014.

CUC's position is that it has completed contract negotiations with Tano Group and has routed a draft contract to Tano Group for its comments and approval. The draft needs the approval of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission before it can be finalized and executed by Tano Group and CUC.

O'Brien said this may not be accomplished by Aug. 6, 2014, as CUC has no control over the administrative affairs of the CPUC.

O'Brien said it follows that until CUC obtains the approval of the CPUC of the proposed Tano contract, the actual start for Tank 102 is speculative at this point.

In CUC's report on the Tank 102 project, Sirok said the project is back on track with a new contractor, Tano Group Inc.

Sirok said once CUC is able to obtain CPUC approval of the final draft contract, it will be executed and submitted to EPA for approval.

"While the start date for Tank 102 is unclear due to the requirement of obtaining CPUC approval, CUC will continue to push ahead to do whatever is necessary to expedite these projects," he said.

Sirok said the increase in the project's cost by $1 million is mainly due to the extended construction schedule, increased scope of work, retention of United Industries Group Inc. for construction management services and Endeavour Inspection Services as the independent third party quality control, and the need for additional materials.

Sirok, however, assured that CUC has enough budget to complete this project and is able to execute the necessary contracts once regulatory approval is received.

On the pipeline project, the CUC counsel said that construction is moving forward with quality control contractor, Endeavor Inspection Services LLC, onsite and that Vanderpool Pipeline Engineers Inc. has confirmed that it is scheduled to be onsite today, July 21.

Sirok said civil works are on hold pending the submission and approval of the Civil Work Addendum to the Construction Execution Plan.

Sirok said now that the majority of the approvals are in place, construction advisor Vanderpool Pipeline Engineers has confirmed that it is scheduled to be onsite today, Monday.

HHS

From Page 1

CNMI health insurance providers stopped accepting new applicants this January to avoid having to comply with the strict market reforms, which came into effect on Jan. 1, 2014, especially the "guaranteed availability" provision that prohibits issuers from denying coverage to anyone.

Though the revised legal interpretation does release health insurance issuers from many of the provisions, the law remains intact for employers sponsoring group health plans.

In a footnote, the letter from CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner states: "Group health plans remain subject to the provisions of the PHS act that were enacted in the Affordable Care Act."

These provisions include, among others, the prohibition on annual and lifetime limits, the prohibition on rescissions, the coverage of preventive health services, and the revised internal and external appeals process. This means that health insurance issuers selling policies to employers in the CNMI will still want to make sure their products comply with the provisions applicable to group health plans.

While the letter assures that the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services will issue regulations to affirm this interpretation, it remains unclear when these regulations will be released.

"HHS has really changed their tune from last July," according to Gov. Eloy S. Inos. "Although this letter is welcome news as this will now give us the opportunity to alleviate the additional local government cost to fund this unfunded ACA mandate—outside of rate review and consumer assistance grants, I am very much perplexed that they did not look into ways to fix or mitigate the one-legged-stool and instead took the entire stool back."

"We knew that something is coming down the wire. The President directed HHS to assist the territories during the last NAIC [National Association of Insurance Commissioners] – POTUS meeting, but this was definitely unforeseen," added Inos.

The CNMI and other territories have requested several exemptions and delays to the law in the past, but these requests were always met with the same answer: that HHS simply does not have the authority to choose which provisions apply to the territories. In a July 12, 2013, letter, Gary Cohen, then-director of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight within HHS, responded to the request made by Igisomar to exempt the territories from the volatile "guaranteed availability" provision by stating "HHS does not have the authority to grant your request."

The CNMI has already received grant funding to support the implementation of the ACA in the territory, specifically rate review and consumer assistance grants awarded to the CNMI Department of Commerce. The letter from Tavenner addresses this issue and clarifies that this interpretation applies prospectively, so while money spent will not be returned, all unspent grant funding must be returned to CMS.

The effects this news will have on the existing Rate Review Office and Consumer Assistance Program at Commerce is still unclear; however, these programs are exclusively funded by the federal grant money that must be returned.

The CNMI RRO Project Manager, BJ Sers Nicholas stated: "This recent development is devastating news to the Rate Review Office as CNMI Public Law 18-34 was recently signed into law. Now the CNMI no longer has funding to oversee and regulate the health insurance market in the CNMI."

The future of the newly established CAP office is uncertain as well.

"I just hope the work we have done over the past year to establish the CAP as a health care consumer advocate in the CNMI doesn't go to waste," said CAP advocacy officer Kaitlyn Neises.

Igisomar is already communicating with the National Association of Insurance Commissioner and the local insurance carriers to address other concerns brought forth from the letter.

"Although the letter may be clear, we now have to backstep and realign pre-ACA statutes versus what may still be applicable to the CNMI," added Igisomar.

The branch manager for StayWell Saipan responded on behalf of health carriers in the CNMI and Guam, saying, "The health insurance industry is very pleased with the recent letter sent by HHS to the insurance commissioners informing us that the 2014 provisions of the ACA will not apply in the territories. As a result, we will likely be able to start selling new small group policies to organizations with less than 51 employees, and new individual policies. As for government individual policies, we will work with the Insurance Commissioner to iron out the regulatory requirements mandated by PHS Act, but outside the ACA. I understand our Insurance Commissioner, Secretary Igisomar, and Guam Insurance Commissioner Art Illagan, through the NAIC, brought this issue up with the U.S. President during the last POTUS meeting. We are grateful and truly appreciate the efforts of the commissioners and most especially our CNMI Gov. Inos and U.S. Delegate Kilili [Sablan] as they took the lead to continuously work with HHS and congressional colleagues to find a remedy for the unintended challenges caused by the ACA in the CNMI and Guam." ***(Office of the Governor)***

CHC now has 33 physicians

» Muña: By next month, we will be fully staffed with physicians in all departments

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORT

As part of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s recruitment and retention plan, the hospital now has 33 physicians, with 10 newly recruited doctors joining the hospital pool, according to CHCC's chief executive officer Esther Muña.

Muña told *Saipan Tribune* that eight midlevel providers assist the 33 physicians.

"We will be fully staffed by next month," she said.

Muña said that seven physicians are Internal Medicine doctors, six are pediatricians, four are in emergency medicine, three are general surgeons, three are anesthesiologists, one is a nephrologist, three are for OB/GYN, one is a psychiatrist, four are family practitioners for each facility on Tinian, Rota, the Kagman Community Health Center, and CHC, and one is a gastroenterologist.

"We are now focusing on providing specialist care for our residents. CHCC is seeking options for providing this care via agreements with medical groups from off-island," Muña said.

According to her, CHCC's still needs specialists in orthopedics, cardiology, oncology, and neurosurgery.

Muña did note that recruitment is more costly than retention and that replacing physicians varies but can cost up to $50,000 per recruitment.

In related news, despite the challenges of hiring more staff for the hospital, CHCC has been hiring more nurses.

"We hire from the Philippines, U.S, and locally," Muña said.

She noted that they would be having a strategic planning this Aug. 6 and 7 and that the corporation board has been invited to attend the session.

Muña said that they would be using this session to plan on how to meet the mounting healthcare needs of the CNMI as well as the staffing of the hospital.

New law now enables collection of ex-govt employees' earned wages

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into law last week a Senate bill that provides a legal structure that would give relief in situations where there is earned compensation owed former employees and subsistence allowance pursuant to an appropriation legislation.

Inos informed Senate President Ralph DLG. Torres and House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero that Senate Bill 18-53, SD1, HD1 that the Legislature passed last month is now Public Law 18-57.

Senate vice president Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) introduced the legislation.

The Legislature acknowledged that the government as the largest employer in the CNMI has had repeated experiences where a current or former employee has died and was still owed payment for wages associated with prior services (earned compensation).

In these instances, the Legislature found that payment of the earned compensation cannot be made without either use of probate proceedings or valid assignment by the former employee completed prior to death.

These limitations have resulted in numerous situations in which earned compensation owed former employees remains undistributed at times when families often require these funds to meet funeral expenses or to settle claims.

The bill provides a legal structure similar to that of other states that would give relief in situations where there is earned compensation owed former employees and subsistence allowances owed pursuant to a legislative appropriation.

With the signing of the bill into law, if, at the time of the death of any person, an employer is indebted to the person for work and labor and no personal representative of the person's estate has been appointed, such employer shall, upon the request of the surviving spouse, pay this indebtedness, in such an amount as may be due the surviving spouse.

In the absence of a surviving spouse, the employer shall pay this indebtedness jointly to the surviving children of the decedent. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Lower Base sewer system close to design phase

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is close to finalizing the selection process for a contractor to design the Lower Base sewer system replacement, according to CUC executive director Alan Fletcher.

Fletcher noted that the selection must be approved by the funding agency, the U.S Department of Commerce's Economic Development Agency, prior to the awarding of a contract.

The Lower Base sewer system need to be replaced as it is already old, dilapidated, and dates back to Saipan's Naval administration.

The design will intercept the existing Capital Hill sewer in the lower portion of Isa Drive and will service the main Lower Base industrial area and includes a new lift station that will pump into the existing force main coming from Tanapag.

The force main will then be extended and enlarged from the point of connection to discharge to the existing S-3 lift station at the Saipan Seaport, enabling the abandonment of lift station S-1, T-3, and the Tan Holdings lift station.

The connection of all the existing and active buildings in the area will also be included in the design.

"The contract will give 180 days [six months] for the consultant to complete the design work," Fletcher said.

He said that CUC has applied for construction funding with the assistance of the Water Task Force through EDA with "matching funds" provided by the CNMI Capital Improvement Project.

"CUC has not received any word on whether a grant will be awarded for construction," Fletcher said.

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Meetings of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday July 25, 2014 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend. The following is the proposed agenda:

I. **Meeting Called to Order**
II. **Determination of Quorum**
III. **Public Comment**
IV. **Adoption of Agenda**
V. **Adoption of Minutes**
VI. **Executive Session (regarding casino license)**
VII. **Return to Public Session**
VIII. **Casino License**
IX. **Adjournment**

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission at 664-2375.

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** Kia Forte LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $300.90 or $138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $18,054.00.

CPUC stands firm on payment of fees 'without limitations'

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has ordered the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to continue paying for its expenses without limitation, including consulting expenses and fees, the regulatory commission's hearing examiner, and all other regulatory expenses.

"If you want to deviate from what we agreed on before, then you should then bring it up in the form of a petition or letter asking for changes," said CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero last Friday at CUC's conference room in Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

This was in response to CUC's legal counsel Deborah Fisher, who earlier said the language requiring CUC to pay for the commission's consulting expenses "without limitation" is objectionable and should not be considered.

Fisher, who was not present at the Friday meeting as she was off island, according to CUC's executive director Alan Fletcher, stated in her report that the commission's consultant and attorney should not be billing CUC directly.

"CUC needs to have an opportunity to review and object. Equally importantly, the commission should be reviewing

» Guerrero: If you want to deviate from what we agreed on then bring it up in the form of a petition or letter

these bills first, and then sending the billing to CUC with a request to pay," Fisher stated.

Fisher also stated that CUC sees it as a "potential ethical problem" in having a third-party payer of legal services review and comment on billings before the commission has already made its review and set forth their intentions.

"CUC sees a problem with the commission ordering payment of bills, which in these matters have been substantial, before the billings are put into utility rates," Fisher stated.

Guerrero clarified that it should be clear that the commission's budget, as required by law, is to come up with "foreseeable expenses" that it would assess all regulated entity and that there is a statutory formula for that.

"It's impossible to object what the regulatory entity files and it serves no purpose to create a bigger budget. Rather, the statute is designed similar to U.S and Guam and I feel that the comments made here [Fisher's report] are a little bit out of place," Guerrero said.

He said it shouldn't be made in a "report through the middle of a docket."

"I just think that it's the wrong place to argue about administrative fees and procedures inside of a docket," he said.

Fletcher noted there were no attorneys present at the CPUC deliberation, but acknowledged that they did have an extensive comment list in Fisher's report.

"There are many other concerns regarding how expenses are tallied and statements, including 'without limitation,' and we do want to reserve the right to comment back at your deliberations today," Fletcher told Guerrero.

Guerrero said it is not in anyone's place to tell the commission to do what "is designed for the commission to deliberate; it is not designed for any of the parties to deliberate."

"I believe it should be in writing and petitioned by the entity, rather than engage in a deliberation," Guerrero said.

Inos renews state of emergency for CUC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has renewed the state of significant emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to allow CUC to, among other things, renew the contracts and hire foreign expert workers to sustain the integrity of CUC's systems.

"This declaration is necessary to protect the health and safety of our children, our senior citizens, businesses, and all other CNMI residents and visitors," Inos said in the declaration that will take effect for 30 days.

The governor issued the declaration despite his April directive that restored the full power of the CUC board of directors. For nine years now, starting with Inos' predecessors, the governor has assumed "all powers and duties of the board of directors of CUC."

Inos suspended Section 4531 of Title 3 of the Commonwealth Code to allow CUC have the full power and authority to retain staff, which may include employees other than U.S. citizens and permanent U.S. residents.

CUC has not enough U.S. citizens or U.S. resident technical specialists to perform generation work, particularly specialists with experience in the type of engines that the utilities agency uses.

CUC believes that the vast majority of skill sets, considering its cash restrictions, must come from non-U.S. personnel. It has tried to hire diesel mechanics in the CNMI, but has been unsuccessful in finding enough qualified candidates.

In citing the substantial impact of an inadequate workforce, Inos said there would be a direct deterioration of service to existing customers and that there would be brownouts or area blackouts with the loss of service.

Inos said the power plants would again degrade, producing more of these outages.

Finally, the governor said, if CUC fails to meet federal court deadlines for the stipulated orders, the court could appoint a federal receiver and its consulting team, with all expenses charged to CUC customers.

Thus, Inos said, continued relief from the legislative prohibition on hiring foreign national workers is necessary to ensure the delivery of uninterrupted power services.

He urged the Legislature to address this matter by way of amending a local law to allow CUC to continue employing the services of foreign workers for technical positions that are difficult to fill and to provide for a reasonable transition period.

With respect to CUC's financial crisis, Inos noted that the utilities agency is owed approximately $20 million by the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and is owed millions more by residential customers.

Although the Commonwealth economy has recently improved, Inos said it's only marginal and the economy and the government's finances are still fragile.

The governor said CUC often only has days' worth of purchased diesel fuel to power its system because it lacks the funds to buy oil from its sole, cash-only supplier.

CUC has no credit or other means to buy fuel than the revenue it collects from its customers.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC NOTICE

"This notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"
July 07, 2014

Governor Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, Marcie M. Tomokane, wish to announce that the Program Year 2014 Annual Action Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Action Plan encompasses applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth. Comments may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for the comment period is August 8, 2014, no later than 4:30 p.m.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.

/s/Zenie P. Mafnas
Deputy Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer."

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROGELIO C. FAUSTINO
Petitioner

versus

SUSAN R. BALMACEDA-FAUSTINO
Respondent

FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0166

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 9th day of April, 2014

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

S. JOSHUA BERGER
LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax (670) 235-8070
Attorney for the Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF:) FCD Civil Action
) No. 14-0141
HIROHITO YASHIRO,) **NOTICE OF**
) **HEARING ON**
Decedent.) **PETITION FOR**
) **PROBATE AND**
) **FOR LETTERS OF**
) **ADMINISTRATION**
) **AND NOTICE**
) **TO CREDITORS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **ANTONIO J. S. MUNA**, has filed a Petition for Probate and for Letters of Administration with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The attorney for Petitioner is **S. Joshua Berger, Attorney at Law, whose address is D'Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan MP 96950**.

The hearing on said Petition has been set for Aug 26, 2014 at 1:30PM, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

CREDITORS of Decedent or of his Estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of this publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

This Notice of Hearing on Petition for Probate and for Letters of Administration is made in compliance of and pursuant to Rules 11 and 16 of the Commonwealth Rules of Probate Procedure.

Dated this 16th day of July, 2014.

/S/ CLERK OF COURT

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,
vs.
TOMAS M. CALVO and CECILIA T. CALVO,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 13-0071

NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 17th day of October, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **11th day of August, 2014 at 10 a.m.**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 008 R 11 situated in Songsong, Rota, (formerly known as Lot 4, Block 23), containing an area of 743 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 008 R 00, the original recorded 12 Nov 71 Doc. No. 1295 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 27th day of May, 2014.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DPS-130
SUBMISSION / OPNEING DATE: AUGUST 13, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"NETWORK FIBER OPTIC SPECIALIZED TOOLS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

Copies of the Scope of Work may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposal; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Commissioner of Public Safety

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Chamorro House Property

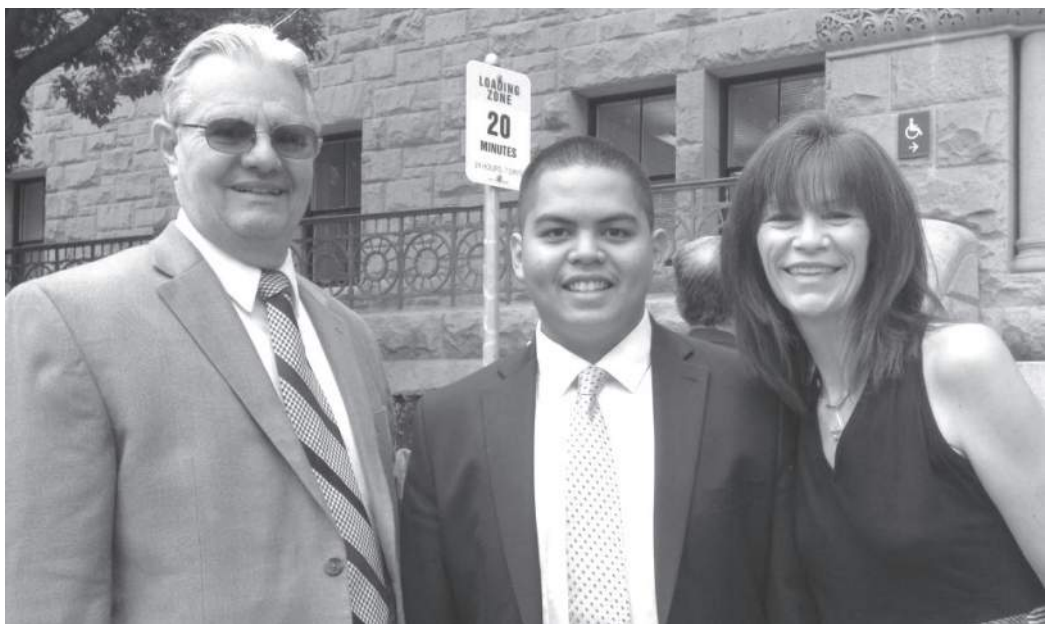
for Long Term Lease
Located on Paseo De Marianas.

Contact 483-1726
Isla Realty Management

JSA PROGRAM EMBRACES DIVERSITY

Pacific Islanders complete JSA Stanford Summer School

By THOMAS A. MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
JSA Stanford Professors David Mezzera, left, and Vickie Ellis, right, pose for a photo with Manglona.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II
Saipan native and JSA Resident Assistant Allyssa Arangorin, left, poses with Rota student Elvie Mesngon.

Every summer, the Junior Statesmen of America foundation opens its doors at Stanford University, Princeton, Georgetown, the University of Virginia, and more recently in China for its summer school sessions.

This year, at Stanford, over 100 high school students from across the globe completed a three-week summer course in International Relations, A.P Government, Macroeconomics, and Speech and Political Communications. Teenagers from over 40 states and 12 U.S territories were among the group of participating students.

Representing the CNMI was Elvie Mesngon from Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School and Thomas Manglona II from Mount Carmel School. Both students received full scholarships from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the JSA to attend the program.

Mesngon and Manglona received their official diplomas on Sunday at the graduation ceremony held at Stanford University's Jordan Hall.

Mesngon, an incoming senior, described the experience as unforgettable. "Having the opportunity to attend the JSA Program is something I will never forget. I was faced with many challenges in just three weeks, attending an AP U.S. Government Class while having a debate class at the same time, but I managed to pull through. It was a really great experience. I got to meet many people around the states and territories that I will never forget as well," she said.

The JSA Stanford program featured rigorous college level classes that had students complete mid-term assessments, debates, speeches, a 15-page term paper, and a final exam. Students also celebrated JSA Cultural Day and toured the city of San Francisco.

Students also listened to presentations by distinguished speakers such as Chief Administrative Law Judge Karen V. Clopton and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's chief of staff Georgia Godfrey.

Before attending the official three-week program, students from the territories completed a one-week mandatory prep-program. JSA Congressional Workshop Professor Vickie Ellis and Professional Registered Parliamentarian David Mezzera helped prepare the students from the islands for the intense program.

Students from America Samoa, U.S Virgin Islands, and Guam also participated in the monthlong summer school.

"This program not only expanded my knowledge, but it introduced me to some amazing people from around the world," U.S Virgin Island's student Resham Mirpuri said. "I have made memories for life that I can look back on and cherish."

Guam student Elisa Rapadas expressed similar sentiments. "When I came here, I honestly didn't know what to expect. I was nervous when I first arrived, but everyone made me feel comfortable right away," she said. "Even though I've only known everyone for three weeks, I feel like I've known them my whole life. In addition, I learned important public speaking and leadership skills that I can use for the rest of my life."

One of the Resident Assistants, Allyssa Arangorin, a Saipan native and a student at the University of San Francisco, said she enjoyed seeing how the program changed the students in a matter of weeks.

Arangorin, a JSA Stanford 2010 and JSA China 2011 alumna, added, "Being a student in the program and a resident advisor is very different. I had no idea I would impact the lives of students and the students would impact me. The Junior Statesmen of America changed my life."

JSA Stanford Summer School Director Steve Bayne told *Saipan Tribune* that one of the purposes of the program is to bring students who would not have the opportunity to interact with mainland students onto campus. He said, "We aim to give them a different cultural experience in a different academic capacity."

Bayne added that territory students continue to perform well every year in the program.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-14-018

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 & 2015

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2014 & 2015. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. *OMB Circular A-133*
2. *Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States*
3. *Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)*

The date of contract award will be no later than August 29, 2014.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-018, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Years Ending September 2014 & 2015"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on July 28, 2014.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 11, 2014** to Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address charles_warren@cucgov.org; and Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

NOTICE OF MEETING
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS' REGULAR MEETING

Date: Thursday, July 24, 2014
Time: 9:00a.m
Place: BOR Conference Room
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

I. Call Meeting to Order (9:00a.m – 9:40a.m)
a. Roll Call
b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
1. May 23, 2014 – Regular Meeting
II. Public Comment Period: Individuals may orally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. (9:40a.m – 9:50a.m)
III. Reports and Action from Standing Committees (9:50a.m – 10:50a.m)
a. Fiscal Committee Report
b. Program Committee Report
c. Personnel Committee Report
IV. Old Business (10:50a.m – 11:15a.m)
a. Board Policies for Consideration (Third Reading)
1. Board Policy No. 6000 – Compensation (Action Item)
b. Board Policies for Consideration (Second Reading)
1. Board Policy No. 7012 – Tuition and Fees (Action Item)
c. NMC/PSS Joint Board Agreement (Action Item)
V. New Business (11:15a.m – 12:40p.m)
a. Board Policies for Consideration (First Reading)
1. Board Policy No. 4016 - Student Grievance Process for Instruction & Grade Related Matters (Action Item)
2. Board Policy No. 7003 – Financial Accounts (Action Item)
3. Board Policy No. 7004 – Reimbursement of Expenses (Action Item)
4. Board Policy No. 7011 – Accounting (Action Item)
5. Board Policy No. 7015 - Tuition Waivers (Action Item)
VI. NMC Executive Reports (12:40p.m – 2:00p.m)
a. President's Report
1. WASC Accreditation Update
2. WASC Senior – Review Policy on Independent Governing Boards
3. Chief Financial Officer Report
4. Legislative Updates
VII. Board Meeting Assessment (2:00p.m – 2:10p.m)
VIII. Executive Session (At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
IX. Upcoming Board Activities (2:10p.m – 3:30p.m)
1. Schedule Next Regular Meeting
X. Adjournment (4:30p.m)

/s/Frank M. Rabauliman
BOR Chairperson Date: July 15, 2014

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Management Accountant (2)
College degree with accounting or financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in analyzing, interpreting and providing sound financial information. Must be adept in monthly financial statement preparation and consolidation, cash flow forecasting, budgeting, and providing financial projections. Must have excellent communication, organizational and self-management skills. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft Excel, Power Point and Project. CPA not required.

Housekeeper (6)
Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning of words and rules of composition. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: detailed oriented. Must pay close attention to detail. Interpersonal skills. Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina. Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days.

Accountant (3)
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Business Development Manager
Graduate of a 4-year degree course with an Accounting or Financial Management major and at least 5 years of progressive financial and business management experience. Minimum of 3 years general management experience preferably in a financing or banking institution. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software and Microsoft software. Should possess a solid track record of accomplishing business objectives.

Accounting Manager
College degree with financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Accounting Supervisor
A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a focus in accounting and/or finance. 2-3 years of progressive responsibility supervising a minimum of 3 associates. CPA/CPA candidate a plus. Audit experience also preferred. Must have knowledge with the use of SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge of Excel is a must.

Administrative Assistant (5)
Associate's Degree with 2 years experience of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records. Must be proficient in typing and good at written and oral communication. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Messenger (2)
High school graduate. Must be able to keep track of multiple documents and itemize. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Good oral and written communication skills and good driving skills are required. Must provide and maintain own vehicle for work and have a valid driver's license. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities
High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities. Must be computer literate: Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook. Applicant must have good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic
Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

HR & Administrative Assistant
Associate's Degree. Must have knowledge of principles and procedures for personnel recruitment, selection, benefits and personnel information systems. Ability to work in confidential related matters, self-directed and be able to multi-task in a fast paced environment. With a minimum of 2 years work experience in an administrative role and accounting experience. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Vice President
Graduate of a 4-year degree course with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in property management, tourism and/or hotel management. Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Electrician
High school diploma or GED certificate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, maintaining, and/or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Must have knowledge of electrical codes, intercom and electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

General Maintenance Worker (10)
High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years experience especially in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Network Administration Manager
Associate's degree in any computer science, information engineering or other computer technology related areas. Must have at least 5 years of sound experience in local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, planning, designing, implementation, and user support. Must have knowledge in MS Exchange Email Server.

Engineering Manager
Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Ability to successfully develop, implement and manage projects including the ability to provide effective leadership is a must. Adeptness in cost estimation and knowledge of quality control and federal regulations in environmental and occupational safety hazards is required. The duties of this job require constant outside travel and exposure to outside weather conditions. Must be able to provide his/her own transportation and must have a valid driver's license.

Sales Officer
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Must be able to prepare management and sales reports and is proficient in various MS office software operations. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Legal Secretary (2)
Associates degree and at least 2 years work related experience in a legal office. Proficient in case and document management software, Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. Familiar in preparation and filing of pleadings and legal documents.

Corporate Paralegal Officer
Bachelor's degree in paralegal studies or in any related field. Minimum of 3 years experience providing sound legal research, reliable litigation support and preparation of legal documents, pleadings and contracts. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Familiarity with Lexis - Nexis and Pacer - ECF is required.

IT Manager
College degree with a major in computer science, computer technology or information engineering or other related areas is required. At least 5 years of progressive management experience and 8 years of sound and all-around IT technical experience is required. Must have well-developed written/oral and management skills and with a strong background in all IT hardware, software and communication business requirements.

Computer Technician
Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. Must have at least 3 years of sound experience in electronics and communication systems with emphasis on the repair of computer equipment and installation of telephone cables/systems. Must be knowledgeable in different software applications and in hardware troubleshooting. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Graphic Designer
Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand.

Programmer Analyst (2)
Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming and at least 3 years of work-related experience in a professional Microsoft Windows environment. Strong practical knowledge in relational databases management particularly in midrange RDMS environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, July 31, 2014.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

MANGO sets next series of trainings for NMI non-profits

The Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations Inc., in partnership with the Office of Minority Health Resource Center, announces another series of weeklong local capacity building training and invite as many duly licensed and registered non-government / non-profit organizations on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan to register and attend. The training will be held at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Seats are limited to 40 slots and are for non-profits only!

- Aug. 4: Financial management
- Aug. 5: Program evaluation - Day 1
- Aug. 6: Program evaluation - Day 2
- Aug. 7: Individual non-profits consultations
- Aug. 8: Individual non-profits consultations

These training series will offer expert instruction with practical exercises to take you step by step through all of the stages of financial management and program evaluation.

One to two slots are reserved for each NGO that register by the deadline of Aug. 1. Email the name of the NGO and representing individual(s) to MANGO past-president and training point of contact Maria C. Pangelinan at ilang59@gmail.com and mangononprofits@gmail.com, and she will forward you an official registration form to fill in and email back to confirm your registration slot.

MANGO is also inviting all non-profit organizations in the CNMI to register as members of MANGO, the umbrella organization for all NMI-based NGOs. Email your organization's official name, valid mailing address, official point of contact(s), email addresses, officers' names, and phone and fax contacts to mangononprofits@gmail.com.

MANGO was chartered and licensed by the CNMI Corporate Registrar in December 2010 and is the umbrella association for all NGOs in the CNMI and is an associate member of the regional Pacific Coalition. The founding and/or coordinating members include Maria Cepeda Pangelinan, Polly Omechelang, Maisie Bermudes Tenorio, Frances Manibusan Sablan, Jesse J. Torres, Al Cabael, Joann Aquino, Lydia D. Igitol, John DLR. Gonzales ("Bolis"), Rhea Chong, George Cruz, Rose Castro, Florine M. Hofschneider. New members are always welcome. ***(MANGO)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 21, 2012

Woman who beat up another gets 60-day sentence

A woman who, while drunk, entered a house in Koblerville and beat up a woman, was slapped with a 60-day prison term. Lydia Omengkar, 36, pleaded guilty to assault and battery on Thursday afternoon as part of a plea deal. Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Omengkar to a year in prison with the first 60 days served without parole, and the remaining prison term is suspended. Omengkar will be placed on probation for one year after completing the jail term. Camacho granted Omengkar's request to start serving her sentence on Aug. 13, 2012 at 4pm. Omengkar was required to pay a $250 fine, $100 probation fee plus court costs. She was ordered to perform 50 hours of community service. Camacho prohibited her from possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverages during her probation. The judge also barred her from entering any bar or other establishment whose primary purpose is the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages. As part of the plea deal, the court dismissed the remaining charges of assault and battery, criminal trespassing, and three counts of disturbing the peace.

Theft case vs former Ebisuya accountant dismissed

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has dismissed the criminal case filed against a former accountant of Ebisuya Restaurant who is accused of stealing company checks amounting to $2,076.59. Naraja granted Maricel Celestino Gatdula's motion to dismiss the charge of theft and ordered that the $100 bail she posted be returned to her. Island Supply International Inc., which owns Ebisuya Restaurant in Susupe, also settled Gatdula's complaint filed against the company with the CNMI Department of Labor. Without admitting any liability, Island Supply International agreed to pay 34-year-old Gatdula $3,500 in settlement for her labor claims against the company. According to court records, police arrested the accountant at Ebisuya on Aug. 1, 2011. Police said the defendant allegedly used company money to buy two cell phones and made the company pay for the monthly bills as well. Ebisuya's owner, Yasuhiro Ueno, reported the alleged theft to the Department of Public Safety.

Fitial OKs over-the-cap salary of 2 AAGs

Before leaving for a two-week official trip to Washington, D.C. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial certified the over-the-cap salaries of two assistant attorneys general. The governor granted his approval on July 9 to allow assistant attorneys general Rebecca J. Wrightson and Margo Brown to receive an annual salary of $52,000, which is above the $50,000 per annum salary cap. The Salary Amendment Act of 1992 sets the salary ceiling for government employees at $50,000. However, the law gives the governor the authority to waive the ceiling, and submit a certification to the Legislature. The governor is also mandated to advise the Civil Service Commission of any move to grant over-the-cap salaries.

Chamber to DHS: Extend transition

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan formally asked U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on Thursday to help convince the U.S. Department of Labor to extend by five years the federal immigration transition period in the CNMI, even as close to 12,000 foreign workers are still needed by private sector employers to help run the tourism-based economy. The transition period ends on Dec. 31, 2014. Under the U.S. law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, the foreign worker population should be zeroed out when the transition period ends. The same law also provides that the U.S. Secretary of Labor will assess the CNMI's current and anticipated labor needs and determine whether an extension of up to five years is necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers will be available for businesses in the CNMI. Brennan said the Chamber views the additional transition period as "absolutely necessary to prevent a collapse of our CNMI economy." Gov. Benigno R. Fitial also wants an extension of the transition period beyond 2014.

Nomination deadline nears for FSA county committees

WASHINGTON—U. S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Administrator Juan Garcia reminds farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers that Aug. 1, 2014, is the deadline for local FSA county committee nominations.

County committees are an important link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers and ranchers elected to local committees share their opinions and ideas on federal farm programs.

"There's still time for eligible farmers and ranchers to get involved in this year's county committee elections," said Garcia. "Nominate yourself or a candidate of your choice to serve on the local county committee. I especially encourage the nomination of beginning farmers and ranchers, as well as women and minorities. This is your opportunity to have a say in how federal programs are delivered in your county."

While FSA county committees do not approve or deny farm ownership or operating loans, they work closely with county executive directors and make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other agricultural issues.

Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are about 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to 11 members that are elected by eligible producers.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area where the person is nominated.

To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign the nomination form, FSA-669A. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. Forms for the 2014 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2014. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3 and are due back to the local USDA Service Centers on Dec. 1. The newly elected county committee members will take office on Jan. 1, 2015. ***(FSA)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

GPPC Inc.

(06) Accounting Technician: $6.00 - $8.25/hour
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Accounting Technician. Capable of performing combined routine calculations, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data to maintain accounting records. Able to check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings; pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers.

(04) Architectural Drafter: $5.60 - $9.00/hour
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Architectural Technician. Capable of preparing detailed drawings of architectural/structural features of buildings, as well as, drawings and photographic relief maps used in civil engineering projects, such as highways, bridges, and other public works. Knowledgeable on building materials, engineering practices/mathematics used to complete drawing drafts.

(09) Auto Body Repairer: $5.60 - $7.00/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Auto Body Repairer. Knowledgeable on repairing, refinishing automotive bodies, and straightening vehicle frames.

(35) Carpenter: $5.60 - $8.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as a Carpenter. Knowledge on how to construct, erect, install, and repair structures and fixtures made of wood; such as, concrete forms, building frameworks(partition, joist, studding, & rafters) and wooden stairways, windows, door frames, and hardwood floors.

(12) Civil Engineering Technicians: $6.75 - $7.50/hour or $1,300.00/month
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician. Capable of applying Theory and Principles of Engineering in planning, designing, overseeing construction, maintaining structures and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientist.

(03) Construction Manager: $2,100.00 to $2,700.00/month
College graduate or with a minimum of 5 years experience as a Construction Manager. Knowledge on how to plan, direct, or coordinate, through subordinate supervisory personnel concerning activities regarding construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. Participate in the conceptual development of project construction and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation. Include managers in specialized construction fields, such as carpentry or plumbing.

(02) Construction Superintendent: $2,100.00 to $2,500.00/month
College graduate or with a minimum 5 years experience as a Construction Manager. Knowledge on how to plan, direct, or coordinate, through subordinate supervisory personnel, activities in regards to construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. Participate in the conceptual development of a construction project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation. Include managers in specialized construction fields, such as carpentry or plumbing.

(18) Electrician: $5.60 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Electrician. Knowledgeable on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. May install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems.

(02) Electrical Engineering Technician: $6.00 - $8.00/hour or $1,300.00/month
Test or modify developmental or operational electrical machinery or electrical control equipment and circuitry in industrial or commercial plants or laboratories. Usually work under direction of engineers or technologists.

(05) General Maintenance: $5.60 - $6.25/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as General Maintenance. Knowledgeable on how to install equipment.

(25) Heavy Equipment Mechanic: $5.60 - $8:25/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge on how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, used in construction.

(01) Housekeeper: $5.55 - $6.50/hour
Perform any combination of light cleaning duties to maintain private households or commercial establishments, in a clean and orderly manner. Duties may include making beds, replenishing linens, cleaning rooms and halls and vacuuming.

(40) Heavy Equipment Operator: $5.60 - $6.00/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as H.E. Operator. With knowledge on how to operate several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machine, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concrete or other hard surface pavement.

(10) Truck Driver: $5.60 - $8.60
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as a truck driver with knowledge in driving a factor-trailer combination or truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW, to transport and deliver quarry materials, heavy equipment's or material in liquid, loose or packaged form

(40) Mason: $5.60 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum 5 years experience as a Mason. Must be able to smooth and finish surface of poured concrete, such as floors, walkways, tile settings, brick lying, sidewalk, roads or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs or gutters; patch voids and use saws to cut expansion joints.

(10) Painter: $5.60 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with minimum 5 year's experience as a Painter

(10) Plumber: $5.60 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as a Plumber.

(2) Sheet Metal Worker: $5.60 - $7.00/hour
High school graduate with minimum 2 years experienced as a Sheet Metal Worker. With knowledge on how to install pre-fabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air conditioning, or other purposes.

(16) Steel Worker: $5.60 - 7.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as a steel worker with knowledge on how to raise, place and unite iron or steel girders, R columns and structural members to form a completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Position and secure steel bars or mesh in concrete forms in order to reinforce concrete. Use a variety of fasteners, rod-bending machines, blowtorches, hand tools, and rod busters.

(35) Welder: $5.60 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum 2 years experienced as a Welder. With knowledge on how to install prefabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air conditioning, or other purposes.

(02) Electrical Engineers Technicians: $6.75 - $8:50/hour or $ 1,300.00/month
College graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician plumber with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

(6) Auto Electricians /Electric Motor Re-winder: $5.60 - $8:00 per hour
Must have at least 5 years work related experience. Must be able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles, heavy equipment and plan. Must be knowledgeable on electric motors, alternator, starter motor re-winding. Perform duties and responsibilities with less supervision.

(2) Diesel Fuel Injection Pump Technician: $5.60 - $6.75/hour
Must have at least 5 years work related experience. Knowledge on repairing Diesel Fuel Injection components, pumps, injectors and turbochargers.

Interested applicants must be able to work flexible work hours and may apply at GPPC Inc. Office, located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. Closing date will be on July 26, 2014.

GPPC Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. Citizens to apply for the following vacant positions

Maintenance Coordinator (1)
Qualifications: Requires three (3) years of satisfactory performance as a Maintenance Coordinator; or any combination of related education and experience in the assigned area; or up to four (4) years of college courses in civil engineering, construction management or related field. Must have the ability to read, write, analyze & interpret orally & written effectively; ability to interpret and administer contracts for construction, and/or operational services.

Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of six (6) years experience in hotel maintenance plus 2 years in supervisory level. Able to supervise, manage and coordinate the activities of mechanics, installers and repairers. Good judgment, decision making skills, and time management skills. Prefer some technical courses. Must know how to read floor plan and electrical diagram. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Must be able to work flexible schedule including holidays, weekends and nights.

Electrician (2)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum of five (5) years work experience required. Provide access for future maintenance and avoid unreliable wiring, consistent with verification and electrical codes, and other related duties as assigned. Capable of reading schematic diagram, and electrical symbols, knowledgeable on industrial electricity, circuit breakers, switches and controls. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

International Cook (5)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least three (3) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Must be able to prepare, season, and cook a wide range of international dishes such as soups, meats, vegetables, salads, entrees, and desserts in the Resort. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Baker (2)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Some previous work-related skill, knowledge or experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Demi Chef (2)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent, or postsecondary instruction from vocational schools. Minimum of four (4) years work experience as a Demi-Chef preferably in hotel. Comprehensive knowledge of kitchen hygiene practices and occupational health and safety standards is essential. Supervise and coordinates activities of kitchen operation and personnel. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

A/C Refrigeration Mechanic/Technician (1)
Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration or and associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

General Maintenance Worker/Repairer (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of two (2) years work experience as a Handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid driver's license is essential. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Housekeeper (5)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum 6 months work experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to speak and write in English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Tailor/Dressmaker (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of Three (3) years work experience as a dressmaker preferably in a hotel. Must be able to think creatively. Is able to design, make draperies, repair or fit garments. Must have an interest in fashion, color and style. Must have ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Able to work a variable schedule on occasion including weekends.

Housekeeping Supervisor (6)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. A few months to one year of supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Preferably some basic knowledge of the hotel industry. Must directly supervise and coordinate work activities of cleaning personnel in the hotel. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Night Auditor (1)
Qualifications: College Diploma or Equivalent certificate, in a hotel or resort. Must have at least two (2) years experience in hotel internal auditing. Must be willing to work flexible night duty/graveyard schedule, weekends, holidays and extended work hours. Understanding of business processes and work flow design. Strong financial analytical background and must be knowledgeable on Microsoft office applications and other software are essential. Good communication and interpersonal skills are necessary. Also responsible in handling of company general funds. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy, adapt to changes in work environment, work as assignments and/or changes in priorities.

Guest Relations Supervisor (3)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree in hospitality or hotel management. One to four years or supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Preferably some basic knowledge of the hotel industry. Must be able to supervise and coordinate the activities of guest relations workers to make sure that guests on vacation or business travel have a pleasant experience, while also ensuring the establishment is run efficiently and profitably. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Wait Staff (19)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED preferred. At least 6 months serving experience required or 6 months current hosting experience. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Guest Services Agent (4)
Qualifications: Must have minimum of 2 years work experience in providing quality customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for service and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Must be able to handle customer complaints with efficiency. High School diploma or GED certificate. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have multitasking skills, be detailed-oriented, and be able to solve problems in order to effectively deal with internal and external customers.

Applications may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa.
Dead-line for submission of applications is July 28, 2014 to be considered.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

The heavy burden of college aid

Return on investment is a clear measure of what you get for your money. Incredibly, the federal government doesn't apply that simple concept to the $137 billion a year it spends on college financial aid.

It keeps writing checks for grants, loans and work-study with no consideration for how well the schools where that money is spent perform on important measures, such as how many of their students graduate and how many default on student loans. That needs to change. To get the best return for its massive spending on higher education, the federal government should focus on ensuring more students graduate.

American families are carrying $1.2 trillion in student debt, more than they owe on credit cards or auto loans. That's a heavy burden for those who graduate, but it can be crushing for those who don't.

The reason is simple: college pays. Graduates are more likely to be employed. Degrees in science, technology, engineering and math pay better than others; $65,000 a year on average for 2008 graduates, according to the National Center for Education. But among millennials ages 25 to 32 with full-time jobs those with bachelor's degrees, irrespective of the field of study, had a median income of $45,500, those with some college $30,000, and those with only a high school diploma $28,000, according to a recent Pew Research Center survey.

So it's no surprise that borrowers who dropped out are more likely to default on their loans.

With a default rate of 10.2 percent for all borrowers, the federal government loses billions of dollars every year on bad debt. Washington has taken some important steps to make it easier for former students to repay their college loans. Congress recently reduced the interest rate on most new student loans, and the administration has capped monthly payments at 10 percent of income for millions of borrowers, with loan forgiveness after 20 years.

To save taxpayer dollars and spare more borrowers a crippling hit to their creditworthiness, federal policy should center on increasing the chances that borrowers will actually graduate from college.

President Barack Obama has taken a key step in that direction. His administration made a college scorecard available online that provides data on individual schools, such as the cost of attendance, the percentage of students who graduate within six years, the typical amount students borrowed for undergraduate study and the loan default rate. That's useful information for students and their families looking for the best return on college spending. But Congress should make it even more useful by tying the availability of federal financial aid to a school's graduation and loan default rates.

Right now federal dollars go indiscriminately to schools that graduate almost all their students, those that graduate almost none, and diploma mills where students take on huge debt only to leave with degrees that are all but worthless.

Congress should set minimum performance standards for graduation and default rates. Schools that don't meet them should be given a reasonable amount of time to improve. If they don't, Washington should shut off the financial aid spigot.

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United in grief

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak is back before the crowd in a press conference. The world is united in grief, he said, this time over the downing of MH17, a 777-Boeing flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur. Unfortunately, inclement weather rerouted its normal flight pattern and was diverted instead over the war zone in Ukraine, on the eastern side bordering toward Russia where pro-Russian separatist have declared their independence from the Kiev government.

Ukraine since November of last year has been in turmoil. It started over a trade agreement it was ready to sign with EU that the then-President Viktor Yanukovych reneged to ink and turned to Moscow instead, for what he thought was a more reasonable arrangement, given the country's dependence on Russia for its gas.

Ukraine west of Dnieper river is perceived to be pro-EU (borders with Belarus, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova) while the eastern part is pro-Russia, particularly Donets'k, Luhans'k, and Karkiv. Ukraine's capital, Kiev, sits astride the Dnieper River that conveniently divides the state. Chernobyl, the site of the nuclear accident in 1986, is northwest of Kiev near Belarus, from which the Dnieper comes from, originating in Smolensk of Russia.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO actively tried to get Eastern European countries to join EU. Many in Ukraine's west were eager to join. Russia's President Vladimir Putin is opposed and had warned the West that there are certain parts of the former Soviet Union that are non-negotiable in terms of their membership in Moscow's sphere of influence. Ukraine numbered amongst them.

When it was still the Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic within the Soviet Union, the state contributed Nikita Khrushchev who was born in the small Russian town of Kalinovka on the border of Ukraine, and who later became Ukraine's Commissar for Stalin after his involvement in the defense of Russia in the Battle of Stalingrad versus the German Nazis. It was Khrushchev who unilaterally attached Russian Crimea into Ukraine. It is this divide between the west and the east of Ukraine that has become the world's headache in 2014.

After President Yanukovych was ran out of Kiev by forces friendly to EU, and sought asylum in Moscow, Russia took Crimea back and pro-Russian separatist declared independence in Donets'k and Luhans'k. In the heat of an undeclared civil war, pro-western Petro Poroshenko was elected President and had vowed not only to regain the separatist regions of East Ukraine, but also to get back Crimea from Russia. The U.S. and NATO have publicly declared their support of the Kiev government.

In the last week, as Ukrainian armed forces battled separatist groups, two ground-to-air missiles shot two Ukrainian planes from the sky. Then an identified jet flying at 32,000 was shot down, turning out to be a civilian plane. MH17 wandered into a war zone already avoided by other commercial carriers for obvious reasons. Air controllers' diversion of MF17 to the war zone from bad weather has now proved very costly.

Here is a part of a transcript of an alleged intercepted talk between Cossack Nikolay Kozitsin and a Russian intelligence adviser released by Ukraine's government:

"It has a Malaysia Airlines logo on it, they say," said the unidentified militant. "What was it doing in Ukraine's territory?"

*To that, Kozitsin is heard responding: "That means they were carrying spies, f**k them, got it? They shouldn't be f**king flying. There is a war going on."*

It now appears that a ground-to-air missile struck MH17 and the blame game has flown thick ever since. Separatist forces retrieved the plane's black box, have no way of deciphering it, nor are they inclined to turn it over to Kiev, so it is believed to have been turned over to the Russians across the border.

The manifest revealed 295 total passengers, listed as citizens of the Netherlands (154), Malaysia (43), Australia (27), Indonesia (12), UK (nine), four each from Germany and Belgium, Philippines (three), Canada (one) and 41 victims still unverified. All 15 airline crew were Malaysians.

Ironically, Mother Nature's fury added to the grief as Typhoon *Rammasun* (aka Glenda) took 38 lives in the Philippines, ravaged the south of Manila, and raged ferociously toward unprepared Hainan and Guangdong in southern China. Flights were grounded in Haikou and Hong Kong. Boats at the Sanya port battened down for the super typhoon, reputed to be the strongest so far to devastate the region. Grief not only was in the lost lives but the destruction of the region's economy and social structures, as well.

Meanwhile, Israel cleansed Hamas forces holed in tunnels in Gaza. Israel does not recognize the U.S. supported coalition government in Gaza that joined moderate Hamas led by Mahmoud Abbas to the more radical jihadist combatants like al-Fatah.

Malaysia's PM Najib Razak was on the money when he said that the world is again united in grief. In Israel's case, it seems to have become endless. In MH17, we are now looking for scapegoats.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Forte: Policy instability

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The casino law is a perfect example of how we've consistently ruined the CNMI's credibility with investors on policy matters. We shift positions midway down the stream.

For instance, voters twice shot down casino but legislators simply trashed the direct will of the people and replaced it with its warped wisdom. Nobody saw the breadth of negativity on such quick fix policy.

In the process it derails Tinian's efforts while leaving Rota dangling in no man's land. Screw that it's a perfect show of instability for as long as instant gratification is attained.

Policy stability is everything! Take a look at the most economically successful countries or states in the union. Their strength is on stable policies that are investment friendly. They move about refining policies that lure greater opportunities for global-sized investors. Instability is itself a vicious deterrent to investments.

To illustrate a point: Toyota is relocating from Southern California to Dallas, Texas. The golden state's taxes are a bit too steep to chew. Texas has repealed its income tax altogether. It also offers capital to incoming investors and aligns college and university graduates for jobs with new industries. It's a highly successful partnership with private industries that foster revenue and jobs creation for Texans.

It's frustrating this penchant to avoid the harder though lasting pathway in favor of rushing into noisy and disoriented discussions on quick fix policies. It's troubling in the sense that we never seriously trump our cards to plan for the future of our children. Do we do it now or ignore it until we're permanently drowned and paralyzed by bankruptcy?

Is it really that hard choosing the more difficult but lasting pathway to fixing the persistent bouts with fiscal collapse? The fiscal obligations transcend the needs of the Retirement Fund. What about education, healthcare, and other social programs? Do we ignore them in favor of more instant soba patch-up jobs to serious budgetary shortfall? It's all in the palm of your hands.

Personal responsibility

Buddy Magoo has this "everything is government" mindset, smiling ear-to-ear when he expresses it. Sure, government serves as the nucleus of order in our community but it isn't our holy grail of salvation. It lives when we rally behind it. It fizzles when we can't make positive difference in its persistent bouts with fiscal collapse.

"Eh, braddah, when I didn't have a job there's food stamps, even a housing voucher where my girlfriend and I lived up to now," Magoo related. "Government is good, braddah."

I pressed for more realistic answers like health, education, among other social services.

Said he, "The government built the hospital for us and there's also Medicaid that pays for my healthcare." I don't qualify for this program so it seems he's ahead on this score.

"When folks have heart problems or when doctors find serious illnesses like cancer the government sends them to off-island medical centers," he related. "Where on earth do you find a government that takes care of its people?" Bloviating isn't going to help any. It was a no-win discussion.

As I rushed through the list to revisit issues he needs to know, there's also the problem whether he would understand that the money for all entitlement programs didn't rain down the blue skies of paradise. It came from the backbreaking hard work of taxpayers across the country. Would he understand that as the number of taxpaying folks shrinks, the less money would be available for freebies? Nah!

But Magoo is a simple person who couldn't care less about the source of assistance he now rakes in. I'd probably exchange blows with him if I were to explain that health begins with the self. He's convinced he doesn't have to worry about it because the government has already built a hospital and has a program that pays for his medical expenses. Worse yet, he doesn't have to work after lining up for NAP coupons for over a year. In other words, he relies on government for his food too!

I know that this isn't the mettle of the indigenous people who are proud and industrious in the way they earn their dues. But there are those who really need help. Buddy Magoo isn't one of them!

Your place in history

Journalism, it's often said, is the rough draft of history. It represents an assessment of the year's events, e.g., policy decisions, indecisions, and perception of leadership or apathetic followership, among others. It focuses on what leadership did rightly or wrongly. If you are or were a politician, what would posterity's verdict be on your performance record? And this historic assessment shouldn't be limited to politics.

It's an interesting question and it pays a great deal to probe it as the young folks prepare their verdict on your performance between laudatory, mediocrity or sadly, none of the above. In all professions, though, journalists would expound positively on careers (small or dim they may be) on people who stood up for the rights of the downtrodden.

Abe Lincoln ranks No. 1 on this score. In my book, I'd add Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as second. The latter was a minister whose dedication to fostering civil rights transcends bright Washington-type political careers. Bill Gates and the Koch brothers are also on my list. What grand commitment and design availing of their wealth to help young kids get an education. It's a sure ticket to moving out of the dungeons of poverty as they move forward.

Is there anyone among our people who fits the criteria helping his or her people? I only know of two who lost most of their possessions attending to the needs of others. They now dwell somewhere weathering the storm of their golden years. They entered public service relatively well off. They left basically destitute.

See TINIAN on Page 13

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Maybes, assumptions, solutions, and a rebuttal

On behalf of the many people supporting my efforts to fix our government and our economy I am issuing this special rebuttal to elaborate on our governor and the "fix" charges in Forbes as requested by the governor. Thank you governor for the invitation.

No disrespect, governor, but in our democracy you do work for me and every voter, which is why I'm on your case. It's not personal as political scientists call us the impolite democracy. FYI, governor, most of us, especially economists, know that if we needed money so bad we should be issuing two licenses for $60 million. Competition breeds quality so with two casino operators, there would be a double effort to bring in tourists that would also double the CNMI's share in winnings, gross receipt, and hotel tax revenues. Yet before the ink is dry on the casino law the governor is making another "maybe assumption" about a loan when he could already have an extra $30 million to help the rest of us who are not retirees.

The governor putting the bond in a hole where he can easily reach it and not tearing it up tells me and the smart voters that he really doesn't know when or how much we can expect in revenues and I dare him to say he does with any kind of proof!

But the casino rush job was not about immediate revenues anyway but more about getting the retirees paid before election day as it will be years before it's built and we will see more revenues, which is why the governor is guessing again. The $30 million is for several years and that is what it really means! FYI, readers, the average license fee for casinos is nearly $300 million so we the people should demand for him to tell us why he is giving Saipan away with exclusive rights for only $30 million. He really must think we are all old, blind, cripple, and crazy.

But here is the real kicker: The casino law is toothless and we just got screwed royally! The governor and the Legislature passed a casino law to circumvent the people they took an oath to protect and serve based on an assumption floated by the governor that we (the majority) wanted a casino. Now he is making another assumption about revenues and the bond based on nothing (no feasibility study). I don't see a single guaranteed solution for the people in sight among all of the governor's assumptions. The retirees are the only ones who got a solution but nothing for the rest of the 14,200-plus voters so there's no doubt the message in this letter will reach most of the 14,200 voters.

We the people don't need a leader making decisions based on assumptions and maybes, especially when the decision can jeopardize the future of the CNMI for our children and grandchildren. Institutions are teaching every day at all levels of education how to use the sciences and the arts for all kinds of purposes and decisions but the governor is guessing in leading us in a complex and constantly changing world. Just think, he had the nerve to tell me to get a feasibility study!

I decided to accept the governor's challenge to show proof when I read the story about him denying Forbes' claim of "fixing the casino license award," which most of us believe is true and it brought back memories of the CNMI back in the national and even international spotlight for having an irresponsible and corrupt government just like they did neglecting and even denying what was clearly human rights violations with maids and other alien workers.

In court and in life a picture is worth a thousand words but words can change the picture. So when the governor and the Legislature tried to paint a perfect picture of them making a hard decision for our suffering retirees, I'm already crying looking at this picture! We now know they were literally preying on our compassion and respect for retirees, expecting us to just follow them and say OK, that at least they got their money and maybe the casino will work. I'm sure this "maybe" induced assumption worked on a lot of voters as I have talked to some of the voters it actually worked on. But even though the picture seemed heroic, I'm sure voters, the governor, the Legislature and especially Sen. Reyes who likes to make jokes about me, can now see that I get the last laugh as my words have changed their picture and literally slicing up their picture into pieces!

I know this because I can't go anywhere now without someone thanking me for standing up for the people and I want to thank them publicly as you (Johnny Mae Public) and my children are the main reason I keep writing, driven by your encouragement to keep writing. I'm truly humbled! But I got this bit of wisdom about the "picture and words" in Mass like I do with a lot of my letters. But I had never thought of what's happening from that perspective so it pays to go to Mass on Sunday and pay attention as you must decipher and apply the parables to better yourself, your family and society, especially when you are fighting evil like I am! My mother, who was born a slave, often spoke to me in parables and I would scratch my head sometimes, trying to decipher what she meant. I eventually learned so I guess it comes natural to me now. I'm sharing this because we should all practice the parables in life and not just view them as nice stories on Sunday for application on Monday!

As for the actual case about the "maybe assumptions" and the governor putting the fix in, we the people can only make one assumption from what we saw and heard as proof and the devil is in the details. He asked us to elaborate so here goes: First, the governor and his crew took a trip to Hong Kong and made no official report to the people before doing what was clearly a rush job to pass a casino law. They continued this unauthorized activity by passing a second law in defiance of an official referendum pending by

Thank you for your support

On behalf of the Liberation Day Committee, I want to thank the public for their overwhelming support and participation during the event. I would like to thank the vendors, entertainers, contributors, supporters, and volunteers for their participation.

I would like to thank the sponsors: Bridge Capital, Triple J Motors, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, QQ Car Rental, Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, Laolao Golf & Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, KKNP, PDI, KSPN News, *Marianas Variety*, and *Saipan Tribune.*

To the candidates and their families, thank you for your fundraising efforts. You are a big part of the event. I also want to thank the committee, the Saipan Mayor's Office staff, and volunteers for their dedication and commitment. This event would not have been successful without the support of the community, sponsors, and volunteers.

On behalf of the Liberation Day Committee, I would like to publicly apologize for the turn of events the Liberation Day Committee and the Mayor's Office are experiencing. The committee acknowledges the complaint. I want to apologize to the candidates' families, especially the Docas, for this unfortunate matter.

Again, thank you for your support and participation.

Vicente C. Camacho
Chairman, Liberation Day Committee

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

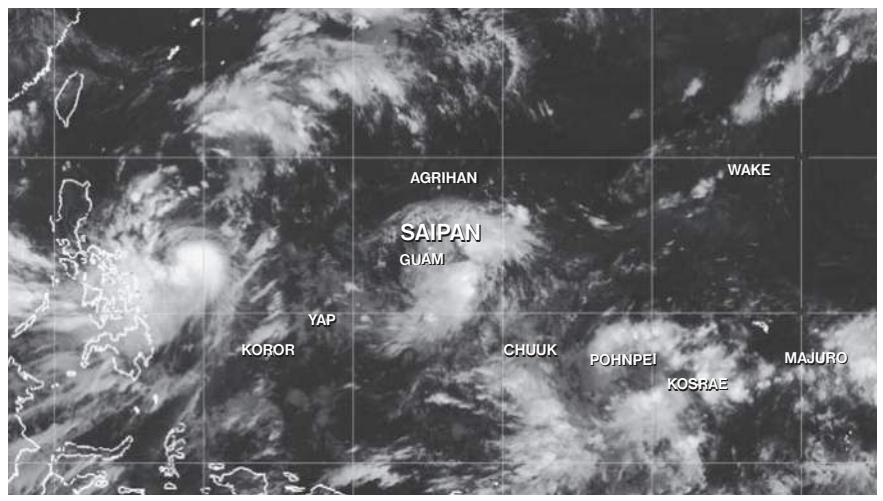
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲55	▼43
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲98	▼79
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Showers	▲79	▼62
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲58	▼35
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼66
Osaka	Sunny	▲87	▼71
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼63
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼71
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼65
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼72
Tokyo	Showers	▲84	▼73
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough curves eastward from Typhoon Matmo centered near 13N129E to a weak circulation southeast of Guam near 11N148E then turns southeastward to pass through another weak circulation west-southwest of Kosrae near 4N160E before ending near EQ162E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found from the northeast through south of the Marianas within 180 miles of a line from 17N150E to 8N144E and across portions of Chuuk and Pohnpei states south of a line from 9N149E to 9N163E. Isolated thunderstorms are found north west of Koror and Yap between 8N and 16N from 130E to 137E. For more information on Typhoon Matmo, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Converging trade winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Kosrae state and the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line from 6N164E to 7N180. A surface trough extends northeastward from West of Wake Island at 18N161E to beyond 25N at 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are taking place north of Wake within 80 miles of a line from 23N166E to 25N169E. Converging southeast winds are coupling with divergent upper-level winds to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Okinawa within 220 miles of a line from 21N132E to 25N137E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:16 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
5:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:06 AM	2:06 PM
Tuesday	1:53 AM	2:58 PM
Wednesday	2:41 AM	3:49 PM
Thursday	3:30 AM	4:38 PM
Friday	4:20 AM	5:25 PM

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- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 18, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20am	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Page 11

over 4,000 voters. Second, the governor only expected one casino investor (the fix) to apply and was admittedly shocked to learn that the Dynasty (Stars) was getting involved to protect their existing investment. Third, Stars was met with all kinds of opposition and unfair efforts to kill their application. Four, the governor refused to accept the brilliant idea to at least issue two licenses to double our chances for success in building our tourist market and doubling the CNMI's potential revenues. Fifth, the governor refused to apply more congruent application fees reflecting the average fees for a casino, which is nearly $300 million. He also sold out for pennies on the CNMI's share of winnings. Six, Best Sunshine did get the bid as expected but the law has no teeth (completion of work penalties or timelines) leaving us to the mercy of Best Sunshine's promises!

The governor and Legislature knew when he first took office that the casino issue must go to the people, which was an outright violation of their oath and a violation of the people's right to govern over themselves through referendum in a sovereign democratic republic. Shame on you! I'm sure most voters will agree these are very compelling circumstances that can be considered impeachable offenses, if not by law then certainly in the voting booth. The governor and the Legislature were slick enough to avoid criminal charges but under civil law they could certainly be convicted of ethics violations when we all know the people were supposed to have voted on the casino regardless of the circumstances. It's the principle of having a democracy that matters most!

I have offered a preponderance of circumstantial evidence, which is considered sufficient proof, especially in civil court, because if it looks like a duck, smells like a duck, sounds like a duck and acts like a duck, it is more than likely a duck! I rest the people's case.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

What a real leader would have done

Here is what a true leader would have done but we don't have any leaders on the hill since not one of them spoke out against this overt, blatant, in-your-face re-election ploy by all of them involved. Your greed, and the governor's feeding you an all-you-can-eat buffet, at the expense of all of us, is sickening. That $30 million isn't yours, it belongs to all the people of the CNMI, not just to you whiners.

You are so selfish that you are dooming people that desperately need medical treatment, and that includes babies and kids, from receiving the necessary treatment. A 3-year-old girl from Rota suffers from Scleroderma and her grandfather doesn't have the money to take her to California. I met an old lady at the library whose husband had a stroke and he should have left almost two years ago for his follow-up visit but there is no referral money to send him. There are many more people in need.

If Inos was a true leader he would have explained to you retirees that the government can only restore 10 or 15 percent right now because the CNMI has some other real pressing needs and asked for your understanding. But no, he wants to be re-elected so bad he will doom his own people, people that might die if they don't get needed medical care, just because he is counting on your greed to get him re-elected.

You know, I am led think that most of you retirees are just a bunch of small-minded, small-town, ill-informed, un- or under-educated folks, because you keep letting the 50 or so people in charge use you as pawns. Most of you are old enough to remember typhoons Jean in '68 and Kim in '86. I didn't see you groveling then, crying to the government or wringing your hands in despair. I saw you stand up, dig out, and get busy. Busy rebuilding, helping your neighbors, some who you didn't even really know but you helped anyway. You had a spirit of community then. Now, it's just every man and woman for themselves and screw everyone else.

You seem to have forgotten you are part of the whole CNMI, not just 3,800 of you, apart and separate from the rest of us. You should be ashamed of yourselves. And you Inos, it is going to take more than 3,800 lapdogs to win you another term. You really, really blew your golden chance, your chance to show the other 50,000 people living here, under your administration, what kind of man, what kind of leader, you really are.

Power and greed: What it does to people

One consequence power of and greed is that it breeds arrogance and contempt for others. Every single person on Earth can be corrupted; some by as little as a bowl of soup but most succumb to money. Politicians are particularly susceptible to it. Once people have a little of it, they won't give it up willingly. Some will kill to keep it, as I have witnessed twice in the Philippines.

Scholars say the Chamorros originally came from Indonesia 3,000 years ago. Another wave of Indonesians arrived 1,000 years ago. We don't know what happened between these two groups—did the first welcome the second? Or kill them? No one knows for sure, but, if other island traditions are any indication, someone set themselves up as a chief and ruled the others. We do know that 500 years later, the Spanish came and from then on, until Jan. 1, 1978, the islands were controlled and ruled by outsiders.

I can empathize with the leaders that have been elected since but their actions show they were just as unprepared to govern as the present "ruler." At the end of the war, few of the population had been outside the Commonwealth at all so there really wasn't a pool of worldly, educated, smart people to fill the positions, and, unfortunately, administration after administration hired and appointed unqualified and untested personnel to jobs they had no business in. In an inane desire to keep absolute control of every facet of government, governor after governor neglected to follow the first rule of good business, hire the right help, even outsiders if you have to, and have them train others. This is one corrupt practice that continues to this day with a few exceptions. Our leaders are so afraid of losing control of things, i.e. the government, they are willing to bumble, bungle and bamboozle every one of us to achieve those ends.

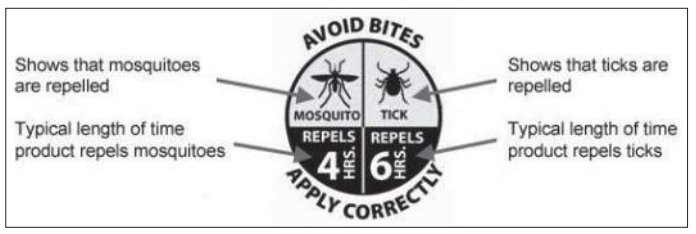
If you haven't been around corruption you just don't realize what it does to people, it gets inside them and rubs off on everyone they come into contact with. Corruption is passed from fathers to sons, usually by osmosis. People don't realize it is even happening until it is too late. If you are corrupted you can't say anything at all about others because it will implicate everyone you know, everyone you work with, your family and friends and all of you will be found out. So no one says anything. It turns into a huge secret that must be kept in a very dark place.

But hope is coming. Qualified people are popping up here and there, and will force change whether those old fossils like it or not. It will be a slow change but we can be hopeful, as most of these professionals are under 35. Only one I can think of is over that but he is a rare person. So, to all the young, energetic, non-corruptible, intelligent, tech-savvy people I've talked to over the past couple months, please stay around and make a difference. You know you are going to have to organize into some kind of group if you are to accomplish anything. I hope one of you will take the lead.

Gary DuBrall
Chalan Piao, Saipan

LOCAL

EPA issues insect repellents graphic



WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency unveiled Friday a new graphic that will be available to appear on insect repellent product labels. The graphic will show consumers how many hours a product will repel mosquitoes and/or ticks when used as directed.

"We are working to create a system that does for bug repellents what SPF labeling did for sunscreens," said Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. "By providing vital information to consumers, this new graphic will help parents, hikers and the general public better protect themselves and their families from serious health threats caused by mosquitoes and ticks. We are encouraging manufacturers to submit applications so they can add the graphic to their registered repellent products."

In a joint statement released Friday, EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are urging the public to use insect repellents and take other precautions to avoid biting insects that carry serious diseases. In the United States, ticks can transmit serious diseases such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and ehrlichiosis. Mosquitoes can transmit debilitating diseases including West Nile virus, and St. Louis encephalitis.

Incidence of these diseases is on the rise. CDC estimates that there are about 300,000 cases of tick-transmitted Lyme disease in the United States each year. Effective insect repellents can protect against serious mosquito- and tick-borne diseases. Using the right repellent and taking other preventive actions can discourage bites from ticks, mosquitoes, and other biting insects.

Companies' voluntary placement of the new label graphic on insect repellent product labels will make it easier for consumers to choose a repellent. In order to place the graphic on their labels, manufacturers must submit a label amendment, including adequate test results to support the graphic and meet stringent safety standards. The public could see the graphic on repellent products early next year.

Current labels of skin-applied repellent products do not make it easy for consumers to identify the insects repelled by a product and how long it will work. EPA has worked with manufacturers and the public to create the new graphic that displays consumer information in a more prominent and standardized format. The graphic will only be placed on products that are applied directly to the skin.

Companies will be able to request approval to use this graphic through the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act registration process. ***(EPA)***

NMC to host upcoming student orientations

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting student orientations for the upcoming fall 2014 semester on July 30, Aug. 6, 7, and 8.

The student orientations are haitted students (not enrolled for two consecutive semesters). Students learn more about the registration process, various educational programs, services and resources available at the college.

The student orientations will also provide students the opportunity to meet NMC staff, faculty and other students before the start of the fall semester. NMC will be hosting student orientations on the following dates:

For new and readmitted students:

- July 30: 2pm–5pm Student Center Bldg. J 2pm- 5pm
- Aug. 6: 9am–2pm in Room D-1
- Aug. 7: 4:30pm–7:30pm in Room D-1 (4:30pm–7:30pm)

For new international studentsa

- Aug. 8: 9am–12pm at the NMC International Student Center in Building I

Participation in a student orientation is a requirement for enrollment. New or returning students who do not attend a student orientation will not be able to register for courses during the fall 2014 registration week, which begins on Monday, Aug. 11, 2014.

If any student is unable to attend any of the scheduled student orientations listed in the calendar, contact the Office of Student Activities and Leadership at 237-6790.

New students who have not applied for admission are reminded that the deadline to apply for admission to NMC is on Thursday, July 31, 2014. For more information about applying to NMC and/or the fall 2014 semester, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at 237-6771/ 6772 or email admissions@marianas.edu, or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on July 24

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2014, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

CCA board meeting on July 22

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 22, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Air Force, USCG training on FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on July 21 and 23, from 11:30am to 8pm, and July 25, from 9am to 6pm The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on July 22-24, from 8am to 4pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

After 70 years, fallen WWII soldier to go home

» Remains found in Saipan identified by DNA as being uncle of West Delray man

By MARISA GOTTESMAN
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL

DNA tests have finally put to rest the mystery of a soldier who went missing on the island of Saipan during World War II some 70 years ago.

Dog tags and remains found in August were recently identified as U.S. Army Pvt. Bernard Gavrin, who was reporting missing in action.

"It's quite a story, a once-in-a-lifetime experience and a very unusual one," said the soldier's nephew, David Rogers, 81.

Now Rogers, of West Delray, plans to give his uncle a proper burial at a place he considers the most hallowed ground in America, Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

"It's the most awe-inspiring ceremony you can possibly imagine," he said. "But the most important thing is we are bringing Bernie home."

Funeral details will be worked out on July 29 when a representative from the Army meets Rogers. He said the woman is supposed to bring the dog tags with her, which Rogers plans to display in his home.

Gavrin was reported missing in action in 1944 during the brutal battle on the Pacific Island of Saipan, but that was all the news the family received in a telegram delivered by the United States War Department. No one in Rogers' family ever knew what happened to Gavrin — until the tags and human remains were excavated from a mass grave in August.

Rogers is the only living relative to know Gavrin, and provided his DNA in January to see if the remains found alongside the tags belonged to his uncle.

After six months of waiting, he received a phone call Monday with an answer. Genetic testing done by the Joint Prisoner of War Missing in Action Accounting Command confirmed the remains belong to Gavrin.

Gavrin's remains were found by nonprofit Japanese organization, the Kuentai Group. Their mission is to locate remains of 1 million Japanese soldiers killed in war and return them to their families for a proper burial.

During a search in August the group uncovered three sets of American dog tags. One of the three sets of dog tags belonged to Gavrin. The group traveled to the Bull Run Regional Library in Virginia in September, hoping to locate surviving relatives.

Special collection reference librarian Tish Como offered her services. Using public records, census reports and newspaper clippings, Como said she located Rogers' cousins and connected the family tree.

Members of the Kuentai group met with Rogers in January to share the news in person. Kuentai representatives were happy to hear the remains they found matched the name on the dog tags.

"We are glad that our third American soldier can finally go back home," said Kuentai's translator, Yukari Akatsuka, in an email.

When the news reached Rogers, he said he was shocked. The last time Rogers saw his uncle he was 8.

He hadn't heard about his uncle since he was 12 in 1944 when he answered the door for the War Department representative, who reported the news Gavrin was missing during the height of the war in the Pacific theater.

His last memory of his uncle was his grandmother Bessie's haunting screams that followed the telegram.

But Rogers said the ultimate closure for which he has waited decades won't come until Gavrin is buried.

"It's one step closer," he said. "But once the ceremony is performed, that will be the final answer."

Bordallo statement on revised CMS guidance on ACA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued Friday the following statement on revised guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on the applicability of certain provision of the Affordable Care Act to the territories: "The recent guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services raise a number of questions regarding the Affordable Care Act's applicability to Guam and the other territories. I am working with CMS and HHS to ensure that our people have access to affordable and quality health insurance. I will also continue to work with our federal partners, local leaders and stakeholders to address the concerns raised by Guam's insurance providers that certain ACA mandates could lead to significant increases in insurance premiums on Guam. The implementation of the ACA is a work in progress, and through the rulemaking process, we will have opportunities to address issues important to our community." ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY PROGRESS PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On behalf of Gov. Eloy S. Inos, the NMI State Library (Joeten-Kiyu Public Library) presents Northern Marianas Housing Corp. officials with a special plaque of appreciation for efficiently handling the financial administrative aspects of the U.S.-EDI Special Projects U.S. congressionally appropriated roof replacement of JKPL. From left to right are JKPL executive director John DLR. "Bolis" Gonzales, NMHC corporate director Jesse S. Palacios, NMHC inspector Elbert Scott Pinaula, CDBG staff Jacob Muna, and CNMI Library Council chair Mark O. Rabauliman.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday to our lovely daughter, Julia Clarisse Bella. You are the most beautiful gift anyone has ever been gifted with. We love you more than words can express. Hugs and love always from mama and papa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OVR counselors to hold outreach in Koblerville on July 26

Save the date! On July 26, Saturday, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors will be making their way to the Koblerville Youth Learning Center to conduct orientation, do intake, and entertain applications for vocational rehabilitation services. This outreach event will take place from 9am to 12pm.

Individuals interested in applying for vocational rehabilitation services are encouraged to take advantage of this outreach activity. Normally, orientation and intakes are conducted at the OVR office on Navy Hill on Tuesdays at 9am. However, in an effort to make available and accessible services to unserved or underserved populations, OVR has implemented a new initiative where counselors will be dispatched to distant villages on Saipan to do outreach and intake every month.

According to OVR and the State Rehabilitation Council's newly-released comprehensive statewide needs assessment final report, "The distant villages on Saipan were also consistently identified as being underserved. Outreach to these villages has been limited in the past due to their distance and the limited number of OVR staff to do this kind of outreach. Conversely, potential consumers that live in distant villages on Saipan do not travel to the OVR office, contributing to the limited number of people being served in these areas."

An applicant is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services if the individual: 1) has a disability *and;* 2) has a physical or mental impairment which for such individual constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment; and can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from vocational rehabilitation services, *and*; 3) requires vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, or retain employment; *and* 4) has legal status to allow employment in the CNMI or U.S.

OVR is indebted to the following individuals/organization(s) for their logistical support for the upcoming July 26 outreach event at the Koblerville Youth Learning Center:

■ Diana T. Camacho, *Ayuda* Network executive director and SRC fiscal officer

■ Michael C. Manglona, special assistant for youth affairs, Office of the Governor

■ Vernon I. Manglona, acting Koblerville Youth Learning Center Program coordinator

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority provides transportation services for a standard fee of $5/person/ride with a discounted price of $3/ride for persons with disabilities and the elderly age 55 and over. Please schedule your ride in advance by calling COTA at 664-2690.

For more information about the outreach activity or OVR's programs and services, contact OVE at (670) 322-6537/8; TTY: (670) 322-6449; fax: (670) 322-6536; email: nmidir@ovrgov.net; or P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950. ***(OVR)***

GOOD JOB! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Capt. John Paul Demapan for completing the U.S. Army Combined Logistics Captains Career Course at Fort Lee, VA, on July 18, 2014. Joining him in this picture are, from left, daughter Kaleiya, son Keoni, wife Denise, mom Lela, brother Joseph, and nephew Magas.

Club C opens doors to island's business leaders

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With free-flowing drinks and a sumptuous buffet, Club C gave the island community's business leaders a chance on Friday night to check out Saipan's newest gaming and entertainment venue.

According to Club C director Juan Guerrero, the club welcomes both residents and tourists alike but at the end of the day Club C provides a destination that enhances tourism.

"This is a marvel on Saipan. An entertainment of this kind we don't have on Saipan, an establishment of this nature is missing on Saipan," he said.

Ben Lee, CEO of Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc., which owns Club C, said he is extremely excited for what his venue has to offer, noting the club's great vibe and staff.

"It's new style of entertainment on Saipan. It combines gaming with live entertainment and food that is available as long as we're open."

He highlighted the venue's clean and smoke-free environment, but also noted Club C's separate smoking room for gamers who would like to smoke while they play.

Along with a full service bar and VIP room, Club C also features performances from live musicians.

Friday night's act was Alan Van Harris, a musician, singer, and entertainer who was flown in to perform exclusively at Club C. Harris has performed for five-star hotels throughout Asia such as at Grand Hyatt's and Le Meridien's Marriotts, Hilton, Shangri-la as well as in New York in such venues as CBGB's, Sweetwater's, and Apollo Theater.

Guests were treated to Harris' renditions of songs from various genres including jazz, R&B, reggae and pop as well as a host of eclectic dances moves that Harris says stems from his music-loving family and childhood.

In between live music breaks, Club C shows state of the art digital music selections on a giant TV screen.

Friday night's guests were also treated to a buffet that featured an array of pupus, crudités, a variety of cheeses, succulent shrimps, kebabs, and artistically presented fruit slices.

Club C features 8,000 square-feet of entertainment space, gaming machines and stadium-style electronic table games with a seating capacity of 200. It is open from 12pm to 4am everyday, with live entertainment from Tuesdays to Sundays.

Guests try out the roulette at Club C.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Friday night's act was Alan Van Harris, a musician, singer, and entertainer who was flown in to perform exclusively at Club C.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Club C features 8,000 square-feet of entertainment space, gaming machines and stadium-style electronic table games with a seating capacity of 200.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Club C is open from 12pm to 4am everyday, with live entertainment from Tuesdays to Sundays.

Business

Airlines: Nations' symbol of hopes or reflect shame

AP

In this April 8, 2014, file photo a school utility worker mops a mural depicting the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 at the Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino High School campus at Makati city east of Manila, Philippines.

NEW YORK (AP)—The jetliner is much more than a machine used to get from one spot to another. It often carries deep symbolism, especially when flying for a national airline.

It can represent hope, modernity and a country's power. And when things go wrong, that once mighty plane can bring about deep national disgrace.

Malaysia now finds itself grappling with the horrific—and extremely unusual—loss of two of its airplanes, just four months apart. It's a sad coincidence that also stings.

"It is unbelievable misfortune that struck (Malaysia Airlines) in such a short span of time. It will not affect Malaysia's name, but it will damage the airline's reputation," said James Chin, political analyst at Monash University in Malaysia.

The shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 on Thursday over Ukraine comes just 131 days after the disappearance of Flight 370. That Boeing 777 is presumed to be on the floor of the Indian Ocean but, without any scrap of wreckage found, it remains the key to one of the biggest aviation mysteries.

Fair or not, the back-to-back incidents have led travelers to question the safety of flying Malaysia Airlines. Malaysian officials were widely criticized for how they handled the search for Flight 370.

"Airlines symbolize the nation and are ambassadors," says Chris Sloan, who runs the aviation history and news website Airchive.com. "Airlines tend to reflect the values of their countries."

Even before this year's two disasters, Malaysia Airlines had deep financial troubles, losing $370 million last year. That 6.2 percent net loss was among the worst in the global industry, according to industry newsletter Airline Weekly. Most of the world's other airlines had a great year, posting an average profit of 4.7 percent.

"When an airline has the kind of issues that Malaysia has, it becomes a national shame," Sloan added.

Americans have come to despise their own airlines, annoyed by invasive airport security, packed overhead bins and a lack of legroom. But in other parts of the world, the public takes great pride in national carriers.

"They like to go to the airport and see these great, glistening modern jet airplanes with the flag of their country on it," says Robert Gandt, who spent 34 years as an airline pilot and has written 15 books including "Skygods," an account of the demise of Pan Am.

The giant pre-war route maps of European national carriers like KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Air France were proclamations of those countries' colonial might. The airlines often carried domineering names, like Imperial Airways, a precursor to British Airways.

"What better description is there for its purpose? It was to help keep the empire united," says F. Robert van der Linden, chair and curator of air transportation at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

In the 1970s, long after their empires fell, Great Britain and France teamed up to create the world's fastest passenger jet. The supersonic Concorde wasn't always profitable but that didn't matter—the jet showed that the two nations were still players on the world stage.

Fla. jury slams RJ Reynolds with $23.6B in damages

MIAMI (AP)—A Florida jury has slammed the nation's No. 2 cigarette maker, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., with $23.6 billion in punitive damages in a lawsuit filed by the widow of a longtime smoker who died of lung cancer in 1996.

The case is one of thousands filed in Florida after the state Supreme Court in 2006 tossed out a $145 billion class action verdict. That ruling also said smokers and their families need only prove addiction and that smoking caused their illnesses or deaths.

Last year, Florida's highest court re-approved that decision, which made it easier for sick smokers or their survivors to pursue lawsuits against tobacco companies without having to prove to the court again that Big Tobacco knowingly sold dangerous products and hid the hazards of cigarette smoking.

The damages a Pensacola jury awarded Friday to Cynthia Robinson after a four-week trial come in addition to $16.8 million in compensatory damages.

Robinson individually sued Reynolds in 2008 on behalf of her late husband, Michael Johnson Sr. Her attorneys said the punitive damages are the largest of any individual case stemming from the original class action lawsuit.

Nation

Police seek driver in deadly bank heist

FRESNO, California (AP)—While police in the Northern California city of Stockton searched Saturday for an accomplice in a bank robbery that led to a police chase and deadly shootout, investigators said they suspect the same men carried out other area bank heists, including one earlier this year at the same branch that was hit this week.

Officer Joe Silva of the Stockton Police Department said there are striking similarities between a late-January robbery at the Bank of the West and the one Wednesday that left a hostage and two robbers dead. In both cases, Silva said, armed robbers made their getaway by stealing a bank employee's car.

"Investigators have been looking at that January case really hard," said Silva, adding that nobody was injured or taken hostage in the earlier robbery carried out by two or more men with handguns.

In Wednesday afternoon's robbery, police say three men, armed with three handguns and an AK-47, were dropped off at a Bank of the West branch by an unknown driver. They took three women as hostages, including a customer and two employees, police said.

They fled in a bank employee's SUV, forcing her to drive, before shooting her and pushing her from the vehicle, Silva said. A second employee was later thrown or jumped from the SUV at 50 mph amid an hour-long pursuit and running gun battle with police, he said. Both women survived.

Silva said several patrol cars and up to a dozen homes were struck by gunfire.

The shootout ended with two of the three robbers killed in a dramatic gunfight with hundreds of bullets fired. Authorities say the surviving suspect, 19-year-old Jaime Ramos, was arrested after using a hostage, bank customer Misty Holt-Singh, as a human shield.

Relatives, friends and hundreds of community members mourned Holt-Singh, a 41-year-old wife and mother of two, at a candlelight vigil outside a Stockton hotel on Saturday night. Earlier in the day, about two dozen people marched from Holt-Singh's church to the bank.

HIV diagnosis rate fell by third in US over decade

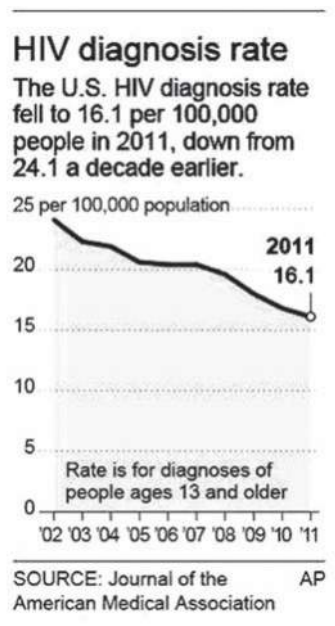
NEW YORK (AP)—The rate of HIV infections diagnosed in the United States each year fell by one-third over the past decade, a government study finds. Experts celebrated it as hopeful news that the AIDS epidemic may be slowing in the U.S.

"It's encouraging," said Patrick Sullivan, an Emory University AIDS researcher who was not involved in the study.

The reasons for the drop aren't clear. It might mean fewer new infections are occurring. Or that most infected people already have been diagnosed so more testing won't necessarily find many more cases.

"It could be we are approaching something of a `ceiling effect,'" said one study leader, David Holtgrave of Johns Hopkins University.

The study was released online Saturday by the Journal of the American Medical Association. It is part of the journal's special report on HIV research, issued ahead of the International AIDS Conference that starts Sunday in Melbourne, Australia.


HIV diagnosis rate
The U.S. HIV diagnosis rate fell to 16.1 per 100,000 people in 2011, down from 24.1 a decade earlier.
25 per 100,000 population
20
15
10
5
0
2011
16.1
Rate is for diagnoses of people ages 13 and older
'02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11
SOURCE: Journal of the American Medical Association
AP

AP

Graphic shows annual number of HIV diagnoses.

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS, which destroys the immune system. The World Health Organization estimates 35 million people globally have the virus. In the United States, 1.1 million people are thought to be infected, though many don't know it.

The study is based on HIV diagnoses from all 50 states' health departments, which get test results from doctors' office, clinics, hospitals and laboratories. The data span a decade, making this a larger and longer look at these trends than any previous study, said another study author, Amy Lansky of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The findings: 16 out of every 100,000 people ages 13 and older were newly diagnosed with HIV in 2011, a steady decline from 24 out of 100,000 people in 2002.

Experts: Social media can feed Munchausen by proxy

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—Experts say the case of a mother accused of poisoning her 5-year-old son to death with salt appears be an example of how social media feeds into Munchausen by proxy, a disorder in which caretakers purposely harm children and then bask in the attention and sympathy.

Spears

Lacey Spears, of Scottsville, Kentucky, has pleaded not guilty to charges of depraved murder and manslaughter in the January death of her son, Garnett-Paul Spears, whose sodium levels rose to an extremely dangerous level with no medical explanation.

As Spears moved around the country—Alabama, Florida and eventually New York—she kept friends updated on her son's frequent hospitalizations with photos and musings on Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and a blog.

"My sweet angel is in the hospital for the 23rd time," she tweeted in 2009. A series of reports on the case by The Journal News, which covers the New York suburbs, found she kept it up right through her son's death, with 28 posts in the last 11 days of Garnett's life, including, "Garnett the great journeyed onward today at 10:20 a.m."

Dr. Marc Feldman, a psychiatrist and forensic consultant in Birmingham, Alabama, who wrote the book "Playing Sick," said he believes the Internet has contributed to the number of Munchausen by proxy cases, estimated from one study to be more than 600 a year in the U.S.

In a case exposed in 2011 in Great Britain, a childless 21-year-old woman joined an Internet forum for parents, claiming to have five children and chronicling her nonexistent baby's battle with celiac disease and bacterial meningitis. Doctors at Seattle Children's Hospital found three cases of mothers who falsely blogged that their children were near death and were rewarded with support.

"There are instantly accessible and endlessly supportive groups out there that will pray with you and cry with you if you purport your child to be ill," Feldman said.

Asia

Unlike the first one, Malaysia's second disaster brings closure

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Less than five months ago, they had rushed to Kuala Lumpur International Airport—anxious relatives with a hope in their hearts, however faint, that a missing jumbo jet with their loved ones had not crashed, and would eventually be found.

This week, throngs of relatives came again with no hope, just a chilling certainty that everyone on board another Malaysia Airlines had perished.

They shed tears, sobbed and looked for comfort to ease the all-too-familiar pain of loss that's visited a nation dealing with the second air disaster this year.

But the crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 that was downed over rebel-controlled eastern Ukraine is playing out in starkly different mood compared to the anguish surrounding Flight 370 that disappeared March 8.

CHAOS AND ANGER OF MH370

In March, it took about four hours for Malaysia Airlines to announce that the Boeing 777 was missing while traveling from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board.

The airport was soon overwhelmed with angry relatives screaming and begging for answers—and holding out hope that the plane had landed somewhere or their loved ones were still alive.

But the answers would not come. Not that day, and for many, not up until now.

Most of the passengers were from China, and the first batch of kin had arrived from Beijing on the third day of what has become the biggest aviation mystery in the world. Investigators announced that the plane had vanished from radar screens, flying for hours to the southern Indian Ocean where it was last traced by satellite pings.

That did little to calm the relatives, some of whom accused the Malaysian government of conspiracy, hiding the truth and ineptitude.

People were shouting. Crying hysterically. Pointing fingers at officials only to be met with blank stares.

DISORGANIZED OFFICIALS

It took several days before the first news conference was organized to address the mystery of Flight 370. Several false leads followed, each punctured by high expectations then disappointment that turned into more anger and frustration.

The Chinese relatives were escorted to an airport hotel. Then transferred to another. They were finally asked to leave and wait for news at home.

Briefings by Malaysian officials were getting uglier by day. The Chinese families were storming out, accusing officials of not sharing relevant information.

Malaysian families, too, complained the briefings were useless and were being told what's already been reported in the news.

A Chinese mother, crying "My son! My son!" stormed a news conference by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak after he solemnly read a statement that the plane had "ended in the southern Indian Ocean." She and others were not ready to close the book without evidence of wreckage.

MH17:

This Friday, and the airport was receiving crying relatives again.

This time, they knew the outcome of the disaster. The wreckage of the Boeing 777 was found, scattered over a Ukrainian field after a suspected missile shot it down. Most of the casualties were Dutch with 44 Malaysians, including 15 crew and two infants.

No one is wailing. No one is making a scene. There is no hope of anyone being found alive.

Counseling is set up immediately. The government addresses a stunned nation and the world without hours, at 4 a.m.

The relatives are briefed by a government minister. There is no storming out of the meeting.

The Malaysian government is not taking the blame. It falls on those responsible for shooting down the aircraft.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Strongest storm in decades kills 17 in south China

BEIJING (AP)—The strongest typhoon to hit southern China in four decades has killed 17 people after claiming at least 94 lives in the Philippines, officials said Sunday. Typhoon Rammasun killed nine people and left five missing after hitting Hainan island on Friday off China's southern coast, said an official at the Ministry of Water Resources' flood control department said. Eight others died later in the Guangxi region as the storm plowed into the mainland on its way north to Vietnam. The typhoon is the strongest to hit southern China in 41 years, according to the China Meteorological Administration. Wind speeds reached 216 kilometers (130 miles) per hour.

Highway collision in China kills at least 43

BEIJING (AP)—The death toll from the southern China highway collision between a bus and a truck loaded with flammable liquid rose to 43 on Sunday. The state-run Xinhua News Agency said the truck rear-ended the bus around 3 a.m. Saturday on the Hukun Expressway in Hunan province, with the truck's driver and passenger among the dead. Five people were also injured. Xinhua said the flames destroyed a total of five vehicles before being extinguished five hours later. Images broadcast on Chinese state television showed both vehicles severely burned and what appeared to be passenger belongings scattered on the road.

Malaysia Airlines staff try to cope with disasters

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Coping with two disasters within a few months has left some Malaysia Airlines employees so shaken that they've been unable to function properly at work, a union official said Saturday. National Union of Flight Attendants Malaysia President Ismail Nasaruddin said morale among airline personnel is low as employees try to come to terms with the two disasters. "Some of them are sad and very depressed," he said at a news conference. "We have not overcome the battle of missing MH370, and within such a short period, this incident has taken place involving another Malaysia aircraft."

Outrage after Indian girl, 6, raped at her school

NEW DELHI (AP)—Thousands of people angry over alleged police inaction after a 6-year-old girl was raped at her school in southern India rallied Saturday to demand that authorities arrest those responsible for the attack. More than 4,000 parents and relatives of children who attend the school in Bangalore, India's technology hub, shouted slogans against the school's administration and demanded that police arrest those involved in the July 2 incident, which was reported only this past week. They carried placards that read "Enough is enough" and "We want justice," and walked more than 4 kilometers (2 miles) to one of Bangalore's main police stations. Police said the girl was assaulted when she left her classroom to go to the restroom. They said she was recovering from the incident, but did not give further details.

World

Monitors try to secure crash site

AP

Emergency workers carry the body of a victim at the crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 near the village of Hrabove, eastern Ukraine, Saturday, July 19, 2014.

HRABOVE, Ukraine (AP)—International monitors moved gingerly Saturday through fields reeking of the decomposing corpses that fell from a Malaysian airliner shot down over rebel-held eastern Ukraine, trying to secure the sprawling site in hopes that a credible investigation can be conducted.

But before inspectors ever reach the scene, doubts arose about whether evidence was being compromised.

The Ukrainian government and separatist rebels accuse each other of firing a surface-to-air missile at the Boeing 777 with almost 300 people aboard. Many see the hand of Russia, either for its suspected support of the insurgents or perhaps for firing the missile itself.

The latest U.S. intelligence assessment suggests that more than one missile system was provided to the separatists by the Russians in the last week or so, a U.S. official said Saturday.

While there is not 100 percent certainty, the official told The Associated Press, "more and more there is the general belief that the systems were provided by the Russians."

The official said it's not entirely clear if the separatists just received the missile systems or if they had them for a short time and only in recent days were trained or able to operate them. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The government in Kiev said militiamen had removed 38 bodies from the crash site near the Russian border and taken them to the rebel-held city of Donetsk. It said the remains were transported with help from specialists with distinct Russian accents.

The rebels are also "seeking large transports to carry away plane fragments to Russia," the Ukrainian government said Saturday.

In Donetsk, separatist leader Alexander Borodai denied that any bodies had been transferred or that the rebels had in any way interfered with the work of observers. He said he encouraged the involvement of the international community in assisting with the cleanup before the bodies deteriorate further.

Ukraine called on Moscow to insist that the pro-Russia rebels grant international experts the ability to conduct a thorough, impartial investigation into the downing of the plane, echoing a demand that President Barack Obama issued a day earlier from Washington.

The jet flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur carried 298 passengers and crew from 13 countries. More than half were Dutch.

On Saturday, in the village of Hrabove, one body was seen still strapped into an airline seat, with bare toes peeking out under long jeans. Another body was flung face-up into a field of blue flowers.

Treatment of the victims' remains, left in the open air under a hot summer sun punctuated by bursts of rain, provoked outrage and distress.

"The news we got today of the bodies being dragged around, of the site not being treated properly, has really created a shock in the Netherlands," Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans told the Ukrainian president in Kiev. "People are angry, are furious at what they hear."

Timmermans demanded the culprits be found.

"Once we have the proof, we will not stop until the people are brought to justice," he said.

An angry Dutch prime minister told reporters Saturday that he was "shocked by images of completely disrespectful behavior" of rebels picking through the wreckage and personal belongings of victims at the crash scene. Mark Rutte said he had an "extremely intense" telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin in which he urged Putin to "show the world he intends to help" in the investigation.

The U.S. State Department said it was deeply concerned that the separatists' had refused to allow monitors safe and unfettered access to the crash site. Spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the monitors were allowed 75 minutes at the site Friday and less than three hours Saturday. She said noted e reports about bodies being removed, debris taken away, and potential evidence tampered with.

"This is unacceptable and an affront to all those who lost loved ones and to the dignity the victims deserve," Psaki said in a statement.

Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed Saturday in a phone call that an independent commission led by the International Civil Aviation Organization should be granted swift access to the crash site, according to the German government and the Kremlin.

The commission should examine the circumstances of the crash and recover the victims, German government spokesman Georg Streiter said.

Russia has "a key role to play" through its influence on the separatists, "and the world's eyes will be on Russia to see that she delivers on her obligations," British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said.

Focus

AP

Emergency workers carry the body of a victim at the crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 near the village of Hrabove, eastern Ukraine, Saturday, July 19, 2014.

Ukraine crisis shows divisions in old Soviet bloc

By VANESSA GERA
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Poland's foreign minister had sharp words on the downing of the Malaysia Airlines jumbo jet in Ukraine—blaming the crash on Russia-backed "bandits." But throughout most of central and eastern Europe, leaders withheld judgment, expressing shock but refusing to say more until more facts are in.

The caution is not surprising: Several former Soviet satellite states have developed closer economic ties to Russia in recent years, making them unwilling to take a strong stand against Moscow in the Ukraine conflict. Though all have condemned Russia's annexation of Crimea, they are divided over what to do beyond that, differences dictated largely by the depth of those economic ties—and whether they feel at risk themselves from Moscow's might.

With uncertainty surrounding Thursday's plane crash, most have little to gain from pointing fingers, especially since the tragedy, which killed 298 people, is unlikely to blunt Russia's growing clout in the region, experts say.

"No one should expect change in the relations between Russia and any of the central European countries unless clear evidence of Moscow's involvement is presented," said Dariusz Kalan, an analyst with the Polish Institute of International Affairs. "Even then, a radical turn would be unlikely since the political, economic and energy contacts are so developed."

"A temporary and mostly rhetorical chill of relations with Russia is the heaviest reply that the region can afford," Kalan added.

Other experts argued, however, that confirmation of Russian involvement in the crash would force the region to take a harder stance against Moscow.

In some ways, divisions in the former Soviet bloc mirror tensions further West: France and Germany have continued to cultivate business ties with Russia, while the United States has taken a stronger line. On the plane crash, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said there's still "no clarity," showing more caution than the United States, with President Barack Obama linking the crash to "sophisticated equipment ... coming from Russia."

"We have to be careful not to impose Cold War cliches on the region," said Jakub Groszkowski, an analyst with the Center for Eastern Studies in Warsaw. "The governments in Prague or Bratislava are acting in a similar way to cabinets in Paris or Vienna."

But Russia's old Soviet bloc neighbors do face uniquely wrenching choices. The region has a history of dependence on Russian oil and natural gas. Economic ties deepened further after the global financial crisis of 2008-09 pushed several countries to forge new economic deals with Russia. When Western markets shrank, export-oriented countries like the Czech Republic turned to Russia, China and elsewhere for new opportunities.

Those who back the toughest stance toward Russia are Poland, the three Baltic states and Romania—all countries that fear for their own safety due to proximity to Russia and which, unlike their neighbors, are trying to limit Russian influence at home. The large numbers of ethnic Russians in Estonia and Latvia—25 and 30 percent of the populations respectively—add to Baltic anxieties.

After the plane crash, Baltic leaders called for an international investigation and many politicians there quickly blamed Moscow for its role as an alleged weapons supplier to the Ukrainian separatists. The disaster underscores "the need to put an end to the domineering of separatist armed groups backed by Russia," Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves said Friday.

Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski said he was concerned about reports that the Ukrainians have captured recordings of phone conversations that indicate the pro-Russian separatists might be responsible for shooting down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17.

"This is how things end when you supply bandits with advanced weapons," Sikorski said.

His comments are consistent with Poland's longstanding anxieties of Russia's resurgence. Since the crisis broke out in Ukraine this year, Poland has been seeking more security protections from NATO and the United States, leaving Poles hugely relieved when Obama pledged to do more to protect the region during his visit to Warsaw last month.

But the relief was not universal across the former Soviet bloc. Czech and Slovak leaders made clear they don't see a need for increased security and would not welcome NATO troops. Prime Minister Robert Fico of Slovakia, like Poland a NATO member, even likened "foreign troops" to the Soviet soldiers who invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Hungary and Bulgaria have been pursuing new deals that increase their energy dependence on Russia. The most controversial is South Stream, a planned pipeline opposed by the EU that would bring Russian gas under the Black Sea to Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia and Austria. Bulgaria tapped a consortium headed by Gennady Timchenko, an oligarch close to the Kremlin who is on the U.S. sanctions list, to build its part of the pipeline.

Bulgaria is probably the most pro-Russian country in the region, with sympathies born of a Slavic brotherhood rooted in past alliances. The current government and its supporters include former communists, adding to Western worries that some in the ruling circle could be working secretly for Russia's interests from within NATO and the 28-nation European Union.

The shift toward Russia is more surprising in the Czech Republic. Only a few years ago it agreed to host a U.S. missile defense site, a plan that sparked Moscow's anger. Obama has since dropped plans for the Czech site.

The left-wing Social Democrats, who opposed the missile defense plan all along, are now in power. In a change from the Vaclav Havel-era focus on human rights, Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka says it makes no sense to halt business with Russia because other countries would just take it over. He warns against creating "a new Iron Curtain between the European Union and Russia."

"The Czechs feel safer than, say, the Baltic states since they are surrounded by NATO members and Austria," Groszkowski said. "But they worry their economy could worsen due to tensions between the EU and Russia."

Why airlines didn't avoid risky Ukraine airspace

By DAVID KOENIG and SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP AIRLINES WRITERS

The shooting down of a Malaysian Airlines plane with nearly 300 people on board over war-torn eastern Ukraine is likely to have profound consequences for the world's airlines.

Airlines are already being more vigilant about avoiding trouble spots. That will make flights longer and more costly because of the need for extra fuel—an expense that will be passed on to passengers. They may be quicker to abandon routes near conflict areas.

In the aftermath of Thursday's disaster, carriers around the globe rerouted flights to avoid Ukraine. Malaysia Airlines announced that it will no longer fly over any portion of the country, routing flights over Turkey instead.

Some airlines had been circumventing the country for weeks after warnings from aviation authorities, and experts questioned Malaysia's decision to fly near the fighting.

"I find it pretty remarkable that a civil airline company—if this aircraft was on the flight plan—that they are flight-planning over an area like that," said Robert Francis, a former vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The airline noted Friday that other carriers flew the same path in the days and weeks before—and even on the same day its plane was shot down. Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lay insisted again Friday that the airline's path from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was an internationally approved route.

Violence in Ukraine between government forces and pro-Russia rebels in the country's east erupted after Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in March. Earlier this week, the rebels claimed responsibility for hitting a Ukrainian military jet with a portable surface-to-air missile; the pilot was able to land safely. And the government charged that a military transport plane was shot down by a missile fired from Russian territory.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration had warned pilots in April not to fly over parts of Ukraine, and the U.N.'s International Civil Aviation Organization told governments to warn their airlines. Thursday's crash, however, occurred outside those warning areas, prompting the FAA to expand its prohibition to eastern Ukraine.

Thomas Routh, an aviation attorney in Chicago, said it would be unusual for an airline to ignore such warnings, but he said there are many dangerous air corridors and airlines must decide whether a flight will be safe.

"There are airlines flying through Afghanistan airspace every day," Routh said.

Greg Raiff, an aviation consultant in New Hampshire, said that if airlines must avoid all the world's hot spots, flight times would be extended, requiring extra fuel and pilots. Some routes will become uneconomical, forcing airlines to abandon them, he said.

Aviation experts said that many airlines continued to fly over Ukraine despite the warnings because it offered a shorter route that saved fuel. Malaysian officials denied that was their motive.

Joshua Marks, CEO of aviation-data firm masFlight, calculated that flying over Ukraine instead of around the country saved Malaysia Airlines up to $1,500 per flight in fuel, or 2 percent, and shaved about 10 minutes off the trip.

Ukraine closed the eastern region to air traffic below 26,000 feet on July 1 and extended the ban to 32,000 feet on Monday. An official with Eurocontrol, a consortium of European air traffic agencies, said about 350 planes had been flying over the area every day before the restrictions, but that had dropped by about one-fourth before Thursday's crash.

Health & Fitness

Studies see new risks for cholesterol drug niacin

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

New details from two studies reveal more side effects from niacin, a drug that hundreds of thousands of Americans take for cholesterol problems and general heart health. Some prominent doctors say the drug now seems too risky for routine use.

Niacin is a type of B vitamin long sold over the counter and in higher prescription doses. Some people take it alone or with statin medicines such as Lipitor for cholesterol problems.

Niacin users' main complaint has been flushing, so drug companies have been testing extended-release and combining other medicines with it to minimize that problem. Introduced in the 1950s, the drug hadn't been rigorously tested until recent years when makers of prescription versions were seeking market approval.

The two studies were testing prescription versions of niacin, and the bottom line—that it didn't help prevent heart problems any more than statins alone do—has already been announced. Some of the side effect information, including a troubling rise in deaths among niacin users in one study, also was known but many doctors have been waiting for full details and verification of the results before drawing firm conclusions about the drug's safety and effectiveness.

AP
In this Wednesday, May 15, 2013, file photo, a pharmacist works at his desk located next to the prescription pick up counter in New York.

Those details are in this week's New England Journal of Medicine.

The larger study suggests that "for every 200 people that we treat with niacin, there is one excess death," plus higher rates of bleeding, infections and other problems—"a completely unacceptable level" of harm, said Dr. Donald Lloyd-Jones of Northwestern University in Chicago. "Niacin should not be used routinely in clinical practice at all."

He co-led a panel for the American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology that recently issued new cholesterol treatment guidelines. The group did not recommend niacin but said it could be considered for certain patients. If the panel had seen the new results, it "almost certainly" would have recommended against niacin's routine use, Lloyd-Jones said.

Heart specialists stress that patients never should stop taking any medicine without first talking with their doctors. Many have shied away from niacin since the initial results came out, but more than 700,000 prescriptions for various niacin drugs are written each month in the U.S. The top brand is Niaspan, long sold by Abbott Laboratories and now by AbbVie, which had nearly $900 million in sales in the U.S. alone last year, according to IMS Health, a health data firm.

The larger of the two studies tested Tredaptive—a Merck & Co. combo of niacin and an anti-flushing medicine—in nearly 26,000 people already taking a statin. Full results confirm there was a 9 percent increase in the risk of death for those taking the drug—a result of borderline statistical significance, meaning the difference could have occurred by chance alone, but still "of great concern," Lloyd-Jones wrote in a commentary in the medical journal.

The drug also brought higher rates of gastrointestinal and muscle problems, infections and bleeding. More diabetics on the drug lost control of their blood sugar, and there were more new cases of diabetes among niacin users.

The initial results in December 2012 led Merck to stop pursuing approval of Tredaptive in the U.S. and to tell doctors in dozens of countries where it was sold to stop prescribing it to new patients.

Prompted by that study, leaders of an earlier one that tested a different niacin drug, Niaspan, re-examined side effects among their 3,414 participants and detailed them in a letter in the medical journal.

Besides more gastrointestinal, blood-sugar and other complications, the new report details a higher rate of infections and a trend toward higher rates of serious bleeding.

The consistency of the results on studies testing multiple types of niacin "leaves little doubt that this drug provides little if any benefits and imposes serious side effects," said Yale University cardiologist Dr. Harlan Krumholz.

"It's an astonishing reversal of fortune" for niacin, one of the very earliest cholesterol treatments, he said. "This is a billion-dollar drug and it never really had the evidence to warrant that sort of blockbuster status."

The studies were on prescription niacin; risks and benefits of over-the-counter forms are unclear.

Lloyd-Jones said niacin still may be appropriate for some people with very high heart risks who cannot take statins, and for people with very high triglycerides that can't be controlled through other means.

Krumholz said patients should talk with doctors about other treatment options besides niacin.

"This drug can hurt you," he said.

Study finds alarming global rise in use of antibiotics

By GEOFFREY MOHAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Antibiotic use has surged by 36 percent worldwide in a decade, much of it unwarranted, according to a new study.

The rise, particularly in countries with a burgeoning middle class, heightens concerns that overuse of antibiotics is leaving more of the world's population vulnerable to drug-resistant bacteria, according to the authors of the analysis, published online Thursday in the journal Lancet Infectious Diseases.

The study provides the most comprehensive long-term view of antibiotic use in 71 countries from 2000 to 2010. It found that the rise in consumption could not be explained by population changes alone and appeared to parallel economic development. A few countries experiencing economic growth—Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa—accounted for more than three-quarters of the rise in antibiotic use.

"People are getting richer and can afford antibiotics," said Thomas Van Boeckel, a Princeton University epidemiologist and lead author of the study. "That is not necessarily all bad news. People need access to antibiotics. But there is appropriate use and misuse."

Among the results researchers found most troubling was the sharp rise in consumption of broad-spectrum antibiotics that normally are considered a measure of last resort. Among them are carbapenems, such as ampicillin and amoxicillin; and polymyxins, both often used against enterobacteriaceae, such as salmonella and shigella.

Health care facilities worldwide have struggled with serious outbreaks of carbapenem-resistant enterobacteriaceae, or CRE, as well as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA.

"If we lose the effectiveness of these drugs, there really isn't much left," Van Boeckel said.

The study was not set up to distinguish inappropriate use of antibiotics, a phenomenon that has been well established by other studies. But some trends in the data suggest that antibiotics may be inappropriately prescribed.

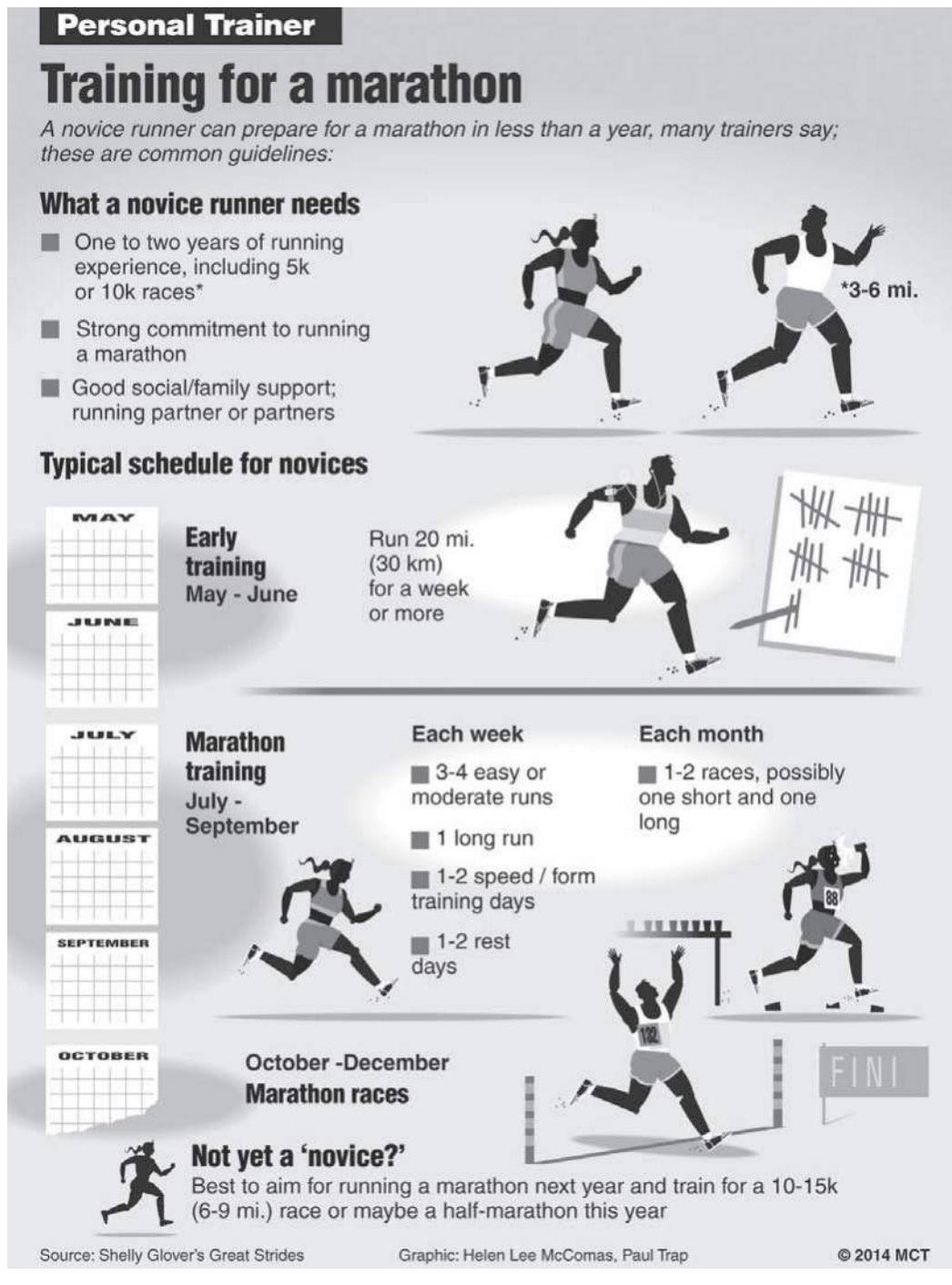
For instance, the authors note, a rise in use of cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones in low- and middle-income countries probably comes in response to acute diarrheal illnesses and to such fever-producing maladies as dengue and chikungunya, even though most of these are caused by viruses, which do not respond to antibiotics.

Higher use of antibiotics also coincides with the influenza virus season, even though they are ineffective as a treament against the flu, Van Boeckel said. "If you look at antibiotic use in the U.S., it's correlated to influenza, and it's not going to do anything for that," he said.

Although overall consumption of antibiotics fell in Europe and the U.S. over the decade studied, largely due to public awareness campaigns, the United States remains a very high consumer of antibiotics on a per-person basis. Per capita consumption also increased substantially in Australia and New Zealand, and all of the high-income Asian countries ranked among the top per capita consumers.

Within Europe, there were sharp differences between two nations of similar economic background. The French use three times the amount of antibiotics as do the Dutch, the study noted. Van Boeckel said authorities in the Netherlands had cut back on antibiotic use in response to a serious outbreak of drug-resistant Staphylococcus bacteria in its hospitals.

In less affluent countries, however, public health authorities appear to be using antibiotics instead of making long-term improvements to sanitation, the authors said. Such a strategy is short-sighted and counterproductive, leaving countries with the same exposure to much more resistant pathogens, they warned.


Personal Trainer
Training for a marathon
A novice runner can prepare for a marathon in less than a year, many trainers say; these are common guidelines:
What a novice runner needs
One to two years of running experience, including 5k or 10k races*
Strong commitment to running a marathon
Good social/family support; running partner or partners
*3-6 mi.
Typical schedule for novices
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
Early training
May - June
Run 20 mi. (30 km) for a week or more
Marathon training
July - September
Each week
3-4 easy or moderate runs
1 long run
1-2 speed / form training days
1-2 rest days
Each month
1-2 races, possibly one short and one long
October -December
Marathon races
FINI
Not yet a 'novice?'
Best to aim for running a marathon next year and train for a 10-15k (6-9 mi.) race or maybe a half-marathon this year
Source: Shelly Glover's Great Strides
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap
© 2014 MCT

Life & Style

'Ninja Warrior' competitor wants to inspire others

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—A YouTube video that shows Kacy Catanzaro, a 5-foot, 100-pound gymnast, breezing through an obstacle course where others twice her size often fail has garnered more than 6 million views since she competed in the "American Ninja Warriors" TV show.

But being the first woman to complete one of the show's most grueling courses is not enough for her. Catanzaro tells The Associated Press she wants to inspire women and young people to get off the couch and start getting fit.

The show, a remake of a Japanese program called "Sasuke," airs on Mondays on NBC and is repeated the next day on Esquire Network. NBC has picked up the show for a seventh season. Catanzaro qualified earlier this week in Dallas for the final round in Las Vegas. That's set to air in August.

For her, being strong enough to effortlessly scale the 14-foot-high curved "warp wall" has meant a lifetime of sacrifice. "I grew up doing gymnastics. It requires discipline, eating right, getting sleep, lots of sacrifice. But the pros outweigh the sacrifice," she said.

Catanzaro said she will submit a new application and video to be considered for next season as she did this year. "But I'm pretty sure they'll let me back in," she said.

As for plans beyond next year, she said, she wants to spread the word about the benefits of fitness.

"It's nice to look good and have a great body, but you enjoy your life so much more if you are fit," she said. "That is the message I definitely want to get out."

The former collegiate gymnast said she hopes to become a motivational speaker in schools to encourage young people.

For now, Catanzaro and her boyfriend Brent Steffensen—who is also one of the star contestants in the show—are part of the traveling obstacle course Alpha Warrior, which visits cities across the U.S.

AP

In this undated publicity photo provided by NBC, Kacy Catanzaro competes in an episode of "American Ninja Warrior."

NBC sends reporter back to Gaza after sudden exit

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC said Friday it was sending Middle East correspondent Ayman Mohyeldin back to the Gaza strip this weekend after he left the region for unexplained reasons following his eyewitness report on the killing of four Palestinian boys on a beach this week.

The network praised Mohyeldin for his "extraordinary reporting" throughout the conflict in Gaza. NBC said that as with any news team in combat zones, deployments are constantly reassessed.

Mohyeldin's firsthand reports on the deaths of the four boys Wednesday were aired on the "Today" show and MSNBC, and he tweeted that he had played soccer with some of the victims shortly before the attack. But then his social media account went quiet, and when NBC's "Nightly News" reported on the deaths Wednesday, correspondent Richard Engel did the story and Mohyeldin was nowhere to be seen.

His absence was immediately noticed in the news world. When NBC refused to discuss the situation, there was much online speculation that the network had problems with his reporting. Mohyeldin, who has worked extensively in the Middle East and reported for Al Jazeera English before joining NBC in 2011, has received some criticism of his reporting from pro-Israeli groups.

In announcing his return to Gaza on Friday, NBC still would not discuss Mohyeldin's temporary absence. But the network made a point to compliment him.

"Ayman Mohyeldin has done extraordinary reporting throughout the escalation of the conflict in Gaza, filing 25+ reports over the past 17 days, including his invaluable and well-documented contribution to the story on the deaths of the four Palestinian children on Wednesday," the network said in a statement.

News organizations are usually reluctant to talk about security of its personnel in danger zones, or if some of their employees had been threatened.

While working at Al Jazeera English, Mohyeldin was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2011.

Tensions in the region affected another reporter, CNN's Diana Magnay, as she reported live Thursday on Israel's launch of a ground attack in Gaza. Magnay tweeted that she was surrounded by Israelis watching the action who cheered the explosions and threatened to "destroy our car if I say a word wrong."

Magnay called those who threatened her "scum," leading CNN to apologize Friday and reassign her to Russia.

Lawyer: Unclear where Casey Kasem's body is

SEATTLE (AP)—A judge has granted Casey Kasem's daughter a temporary restraining order preventing the famous radio host's wife from cremating his remains, but it's unclear where those remains are or whether they've already been disposed of.

Kasem

A lawyer for Kasem's daughter Kerri Kasem said Friday that when he went to give a Tacoma funeral home a copy of the restraining order, he was informed it no longer had the remains.

"They said they could not disclose where he had gone or where he would end up," said the lawyer, Scott Winship.

Tim Grant, funeral director at Gaffney Funeral Home & Cremation Services, confirmed Friday that Kasem's body was no longer there.

"I cannot discuss the actual arrangements themselves, but he's no longer in our care," he said.

Kasem's wife of the past 34 years, Jean Kasem, filled out a death certificate dated July 15 listing an address in Jerusalem, Israel, according to a copy filed in Pierce County Superior Court. The document listed "removal from state" as the intended means of disposing the remains, the Urgel Bourgie funeral home in Montreal as the place of disposition, and July 14 as the date of disposition.

A man who answered the phone at Urgel Bourgie on Friday evening said it had disposed of no such remains and had no one by the name of Casey Kasem in its computer system.

Teruyuki Olsen, a lawyer for Kasem's wife, refused to comment Friday or provide any information about what happened to Kasem's body.

Kasem, the radio host of "American Top 40" and voice of animated television characters like Scooby-Doo's sidekick Shaggy, died June 15 at a hospital in Gig Harbor. He was 82 and suffering from dementia, and his death followed a lengthy battle over his care between Jean Kasem and his three adult children from his first marriage.

Kerri Kasem asked a Pierce County Superior Court judge on Wednesday for authorization to seek an autopsy on her father as well as a temporary restraining order to ensure his body was held in cold storage and not cremated until that autopsy is completed.

Judge Ronald Culpepper ordered Jean Kasem to ensure that the radio host's remains were preserved and that his body stayed at the Tacoma funeral home until the court decided on the autopsy petition following a July 25 hearing.

Exhibit on real Johnny Appleseed will hit the road

CINCINNATI (AP)—If you picture Johnny Appleseed as a loner wearing a tin pot for a hat and flinging apple seeds while meandering through the countryside, experts say you're wrong.

They're hoping that a traveling exhibit funded by an anonymous donation to a western Ohio center and museum will help clear misconceptions about the folk hero and the real man behind the legend.

"We want people around the country to know the real person, not just the myths and folklore," said Cheryl Ogden, director of the Johnny Appleseed Educational Center and Museum at Urbana University in Urbana. "We want them to know John Chapman's values of hard work, compassion and generosity."

Chapman, known as Johnny Appleseed to generations of Americans, was a pioneer nurseryman in the late 18th and early 19th centuries credited with introducing apple trees to portions of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and West Virginia. While colorful stories and films depicting him living outdoors and wearing ragged clothes are probably partially true, researchers doubt he wore a pot on his head or just gave his seedlings and nurseries away.

"He apparently dressed, ate and lived as simply as a human being could," said Andrew Masich, president and CEO of Pittsburgh's Senator John Heinz History Center. "But he made money by selling seeds and planting trees for settlers."

At the same time, there are documented accounts of him going barefoot after giving his shoes to someone in need. He also widely distributed religious tracts as a missionary of the Swedenborgian Church, a Christian faith embracing individualism and spiritual growth.

Chapman, who never married and apparently had no children, was born in 1774 in Leominster, Massachusetts, where a small replica of his home now stands. Researchers say Chapman headed west in the 1790s after the Northwest Territory opened to settlers, and he began planting nurseries with apple seeds from cider mills. He traveled ahead of settlers, selecting sites for his nurseries and planting and caring for the young trees. When settlers eventually arrived, those sites would be ready for sale, and Chapman also sold seedlings for them to plant.

"He was excellent about anticipating where settlers were going next," Ogden said.

Having fruit trees on their property was especially important for settlers, who had to show improvement on homesteaded parcels to claim land grants. The apples from the trees, while not good for eating, were used to make hard cider. Settlers used apple cider vinegar to preserve fruits, vegetables and meats.

David C. Wilson, a Leominster Historical Society trustee, says the "simple man of simple pleasures" became an icon to many settlers.

"A new nation needs folk heroes," Wilson said.

Documentation indicates Chapman traveled for more than 50 years before he died in 1845 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where a grave marker stands on land where he is believed to be buried. One of the earliest national accounts of "Johnny Appleseed" was an 1871 article in Harper's New Monthly Magazine describing him as a "pioneer hero."

Tom Hanks in Egypt to film 'Hologram for the King'

CAIRO (AP)—Hollywood star Tom Hanks has started shooting portions of his new film "A Hologram for the King" in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of Hurghada, the country's state news agency reported Saturday.

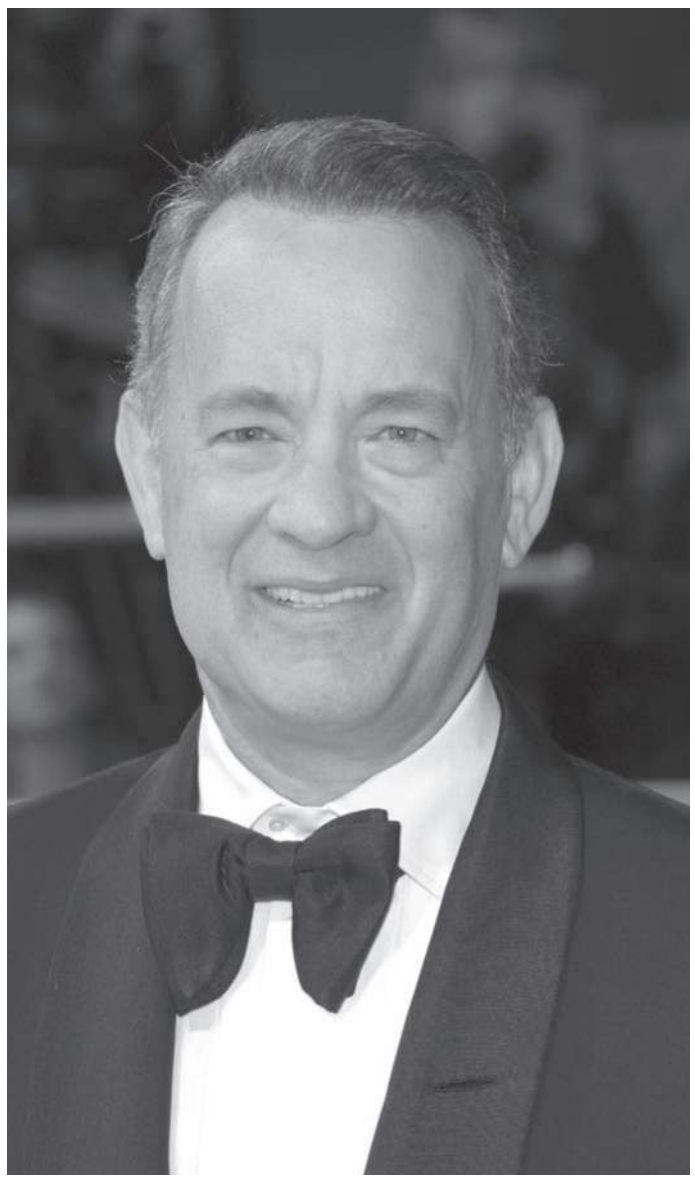
Hanks arrived Friday in Egypt and told the local independent daily newspaper Al-Masry Al-Youm that it was his first visit to the Red Sea, though he's read a lot about it. The newspaper said Hanks will be sleeping in a yacht in the Red Sea during the filming.

Egypt's state news agency MENA reported that Hanks will film scenes in diving areas off the coast.

The movie is directed by German filmmaker Tom Tykwer and is based on a 2012 novel by Dave Eggers. Hanks will play the role of a struggling American salesman who travels to Saudi Arabia to sign a contract with a wealthy monarch, but instead finds himself entangled in a series of misadventures.

The movie is set to be released in 2015.

Egyptian officials view Hanks' visit as a boost to the country's faltering tourism industry, a top foreign currency earner battered by three years of political turmoil. Hurghada is one of the country's best known destinations, renowned for its diving sites and colorful coral reefs.



AP

In this Feb. 16, 2014 file photo, actor Tom Hanks poses for photographers on the red carpet at the EE British Academy Film Awards held at the Royal Opera House in London.

CNN reassigns reporter after 'scum' tweet

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN has pulled reporter Diana Magnay out of the Middle East after she referred to a group of Israelis who had allegedly threatened her while reporting on Gaza as "scum" in a tweet.

Magnay was reporting live on the air as a group watched the Israeli bombardment of Gaza around her. After the report was over, she wrote on Twitter: "Israelis on hill above Sderot cheer as bombs land on (hash)gaza; threaten to `destroy our car if I say a word wrong.' Scum."

CNN said in a statement Friday that Magnay was referring specifically to those who threatened her. CNN said the network and Magnay are sorry if anyone was offended.

The network said Magnay has been reassigned to Moscow.

Bid of $10,755 wins 1937 'Snow White' billboard

AP

Grey Smith, director, vintage movie poster auctions with Heritage Auctions poses for a photo by a large colorful billboard from the 1937 release of the animated film "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" Monday, July 14, 2014, in Dallas, Texas.

DALLAS (AP)—A large, colorful billboard from the 1937 release of the animated film "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" has been sold at auction for $10,755.

In a statement, Heritage Auctions said it was not identifying the winning bidder. The Dallas-based auction house had said the rare billboard was expected to sell for at least $10,000 on Saturday.

The 20-by-9-foot billboard was printed in England to promote the Disney film there. It features three scenes, the main one showing a rosy-cheeked Snow White in front of a castle in her classic outfit with bright yellow skirt, surrounded by the dwarfs and other characters from the film.

The billboard had been in a private collection for more than a decade.

Johnson calls Christie 'a buddy' despite video

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dwayne Johnson says he considers New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie "a buddy" despite making Christie take down an online video that featured the Hollywood star.

"I know Gov. Christie. We've met a couple of times," the wrestler-turned-action star said in an interview Friday while promoting his new "Hercules" movie. "But in no way was I associated with what he had going on. . He had his team of people around him who kind of put that together. I saw it. I was like well, I don't have anything to do with it, so now you've got to pull it down."

Christie's office last week removed Johnson from a trailer that it posted to YouTube for a mock summer blockbuster titled "No Pain. No Gain," a riff on the title of Johnson's film "Pain & Gain."

The trailer features clips of Christie warning of an impending budget crisis, along with dramatic music and sound effects. The clip is cut together with scenes of explosions and car chase.

Johnson, 42, spoke at the Republican National Convention in 2000 but says he's "more patriotic than I am political."

"I have good friends who are politicians on both sides," he said in the interview. "Clinton is a good buddy of mine, Obama is a good buddy of mine. A multitude of people who are buddies."

As for whether he some day could follow in the path of past actors-turned-politicians like Ronald Reagan and Arnold Schwarzenegger, Johnson says: "You never say never. I've learned never to say never."

Exec producer of 'The Flash' teases new series

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Geoff Johns, executive producer of "The Flash," says the upcoming CW series is probably the most faithful DC Comics adaptation ever.

Grant Gustin stars as Barry Allen, who becomes the fastest man alive, known as The Flash. He was introduced last fall on two episodes of The CW's "Arrow."

The cast and executive producers spoke to journalists Friday at the Television Critics Association summer press tour about the show set to premiere Oct. 7.

Here are some highlights:

■ Wentworth Miller (formerly of "Prison Break") will be introduced in the show's fourth episode as Leonard Snart (otherwise known as Captain Cold, a villain with a freeze gun.)

■ Look for a wink to DC Comics villain Gorilla Grodd in the pilot episode. Grodd is an enemy to The Flash.

■ Expect crossovers with characters from "Arrow" and "The Flash." Gustin said in an interview the two sets are across the street from each other in Vancouver, British Columbia. He teased that those appearances will likely happen more than people might anticipate.

■ Art released from The CW shows The Flash wearing a purple costume. This will change. "Our hope is to augment it and change it over time ... We'll be evolving the suit," executive producer Greg Berlanti said.

Dating scene is frustrating for strong young woman

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I am a young woman hoping to find "The One." But I have come to realize that I'm not the normal female. I don't get manicures or go shopping. (I hate shopping!) When I meet a guy, he likes that I'm "me," but if we get serious, then I'm either "too independent," "too outspoken" or "not girly enough."

I don't want to change myself or pretend to be someone I'm not. One minute they like that I'm independent and can fend for myself; the next they don't like that I don't depend on them to pay bills, etc.

Why is it always a double standard? Men like strong women until they are with one. Then they can't handle it. Maybe I'm too much for the men where I live. Is it possible for me to find someone?

INDEPENDENT FEMALE IN LOUISIANA

DEAR INDEPENDENT FEMALE: Welcome to the wonderful world of dating. While some may think of dating as a popularity contest, it's really more like sifting for a gold nugget. It takes a lot of people years to strike gold -- and it's the same with dating. Is it possible to find someone? Absolutely! But it takes time, stamina and a sense of humor to survive the process.

DEAR ABBY: I had a baby girl a month ago and I live with my in-laws. My husband isn't here right now because of his job.

They are great and very helpful, but I never have any private time with my daughter. Every time she cries, my sisters-in-law pick her up. When she wants to sleep, they always take her away from me to put her to sleep. Even when I breastfeed, they are always in the room with me.

I can't seem to tell them no or ask them to get out of the room. I mean, they are very helpful, and they are leaving in a month for another country, so I understand they want to be with her as much as they can. However, I would still like some time alone with my daughter. Advice?

NEW AT THIS IN HOUSTON

DEAR NEW AT THIS: As a mother, it's up to you to assert yourself and do what is right for your baby. Find the courage to tell your in-laws that you are grateful for their assistance but want privacy when you nurse the baby. It is important that your daughter bond with YOU, and if your sisters-in-law are always tending to her needs, it may be more difficult for you when they leave. I'm sure your pediatrician would back you up.

DEAR ABBY: Would it be OK for an 80-year-old man to take a 50-year-old woman to supper? We often talk together at church.

LOU IN WISCONSIN

DEAR LOU: Only if she says yes.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

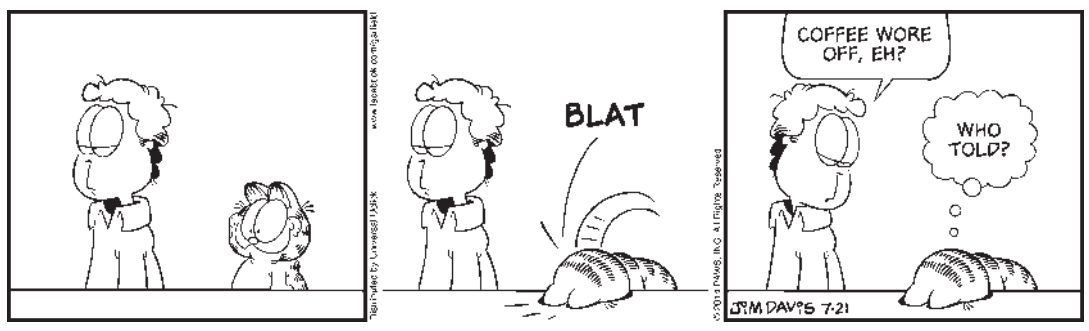
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHAT'S THIS UGLY BRUTE CALLED?
AN ALLO-SAUR!
I'M RIGHT HERE. YOU DON'T NEED TO SHOUT.
RUN!
WHEN WE GET TO THE TIME MACHINE THROW HIM THE SNACKS WE PACKED! MAYBE THAT WILL DIVERT HIM WHILE WE TAKE OFF!
YOU CAN THROW YOUR SNACKS. I MIGHT STILL WANT MINE.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A SNACK YOURSELF! GET IN! GET IN!

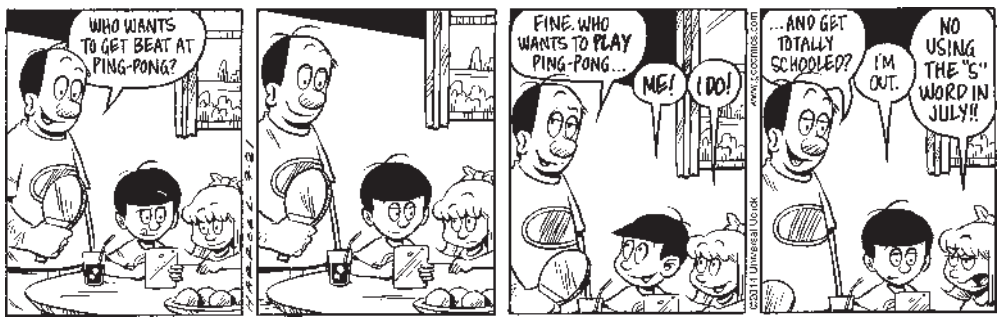
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHO WANTS TO GET BEAT AT PING-PONG?
FINE. WHO WANTS TO PLAY PING-PONG...
ME!
I DO!
...AND GET TOTALLY SCHOOLED?
I'M OUT.
NO USING THE "S" WORD IN JULY!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

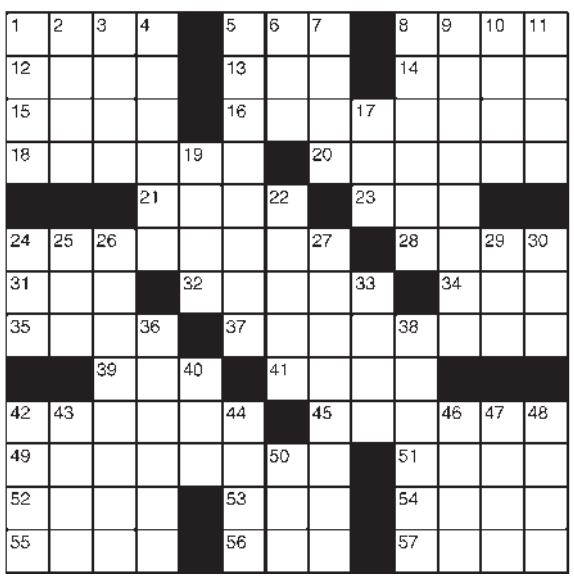
ACROSS
1 Explosion noise
5 Mandible
8 Cushions
12 Risque
13 Boxing legend
14 "— for All Seasons"
15 State with certainty
16 Florida city
18 Cruelty
20 Catch in a snare
21 Bickering
23 Symbol before "com"
24 Derisively mocking
28 Ferris wheel, for one
31 Mature
32 Accelerator or brake
34 Sharp turn
35 Luxurious
37 Bosnian capital
39 Scot's chapeau
41 Actor Rob
42 Simultaneously
45 False
49 Cramped fish
51 Vocalized
52 Big name in daredevilry
53 "Rocks"
54 First (Abbr.)
55 Staffer
56 100 cts.
57 NBA team

DOWN
1 Lingerie items
2 Volcanic spillage
3 Scored 100 on
4 Innumerable
5 Tea-flavoring flowers
6 Carte lead-in
7 Telegram
8 Church VIP
9 Write off gradually
10 Information
11 Break suddenly
17 In addition
19 Halt
22 Re ebb and flow
24 Enervate
25 Past
26 Made good as new
27 Merry-go-round
29 Arith. operation
30 Id counterpart
33 Croquet venue
36 Take care of
38 Astro's master George
40 Former telecom giant
42 On the briny
43 "Rikki-Tikki- —"
44 Oklahoma city
46 Unusual
47 One
48 Easter symbols
50 Environmentally friendly

Solution time: 27 mins.

M	A	H	■	C	L	A	H	■	W	A	I	L
I	M	A	■	F	A	S	A	■	A	X	L	E
C	A	B	L	E	C	A	R	■	F	E	L	T
A	T	E	A	S	E	■	A	G	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	T	S	■	B	A	R	C	A	R
B	R	A	N	S	■	S	I	Y	■	I	I	F
L	O	F	E	■	I	O	E	■	M	A	D	E
A	B	E	■	S	H	Y	■	T	I	N	E	D
B	O	X	C	A	R	■	G	U	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	M	U	■	O	L	E	A	T	E
W	I	L	D	■	S	Q	U	A	D	C	A	R
I	K	E	A	■	T	U	R	N	■	M	I	A
G	E	A	R	■	S	■	D	E	■	E	L	S

Friday's answer 7-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Juno Temple, 25; Justin Bartha, 36; Josh Hartnett, 36; Robin Williams, 63.

Happy Birthday: Turn this year into a winner. Put your energy where it counts and focus on what you want to accomplish. Make it your business to find solutions and you will avoid waffling in an uncertain situation. Time is precious and it must be put to good use if you want to come out on top. Let your imagination lead to solutions. Your numbers are 3, 10, 16, 25, 30, 38, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Sitting around contemplating will lead to trouble. You need a challenge or physical activity in order to feel accomplished. Broaden your outlook by expanding your interests. Love should be featured at the end of the day. Do something nice for someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep your home life simple. You don't have to keep up with the neighbors. It's more important to live within your means and to enjoy the people you love most. You will learn by watching how others react to adversity. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Charm will get you in the door, but honesty will keep you there. It will be easy for you to grab attention and get the help you need, but taking the initiative to make things happen will be what's required. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Love and romance are on the rise. Don't sit back when you should be making plans to have some fun. Share your creative thoughts and you will attract someone interested in exploring new possibilities with you. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may like to impress and express your gratitude with lavish gifts and promises, but try to refrain from stepping over your budget. The financial limitations it causes will not be worth your while. Offer compliments, not cash. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Shake things up and get involved in a cause you feel is worth contributing to and you will connect with someone very special or influential. Love is in the stars and making your feelings known will improve your relationship. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't instigate change. Do your best to complete unfinished business. Emotional blackmail may be an issue if you trusted someone with private information. An unexpected change of plans must not be allowed to interfere with your schedule. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make your move and take on whatever comes your way. You will outwit, outmaneuver and outdo anyone who tries to come between you and your goals. Your unique, innovative ideas will improve your life and contribute to your comfort and happiness in the future. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep a close watch on what others are doing. An emotional situation will not turn out as bad if you stick to the truth. Don't say what you think someone wants to hear; tell it like it is and offer solutions. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Precision, confidence and poise will help you posture a positive self-image. Now is not the time to take a risk or let an unpredictable situation influence you to make an impulsive move. Do your fact-finding and call the shots. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Get busy and settle any unfinished business. Follow the path that suits your current needs. You will entice someone to join your quest with your innovative ideas and direct, hands-on approach. Financial gain is heading in your direction. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Slow down and enjoy what you have. Getting together with family, friends or your lover will help you remember what life is all about. Embrace a creative idea or plan and turn it into a reality. Think, plan and follow through. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, imaginative and expressive. You are determined and proactive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9				1		2	5
3				5		7		4
			2		4		6	
		6		1		3		9
	4						8	
1		7		6		5		
	2		9		3			
4		5		2				8
8	6		1				3	

Difficulty Level ★ 7/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

4	6	2	1	8	9	3	7	5
1	5	7	3	2	6	8	4	9
9	8	3	5	7	4	6	2	1
5	9	1	7	4	3	2	8	6
2	4	6	8	5	1	9	3	7
7	3	8	9	6	2	1	5	4
3	2	4	6	9	7	5	1	8
6	1	5	4	3	8	7	9	2
8	7	9	2	1	5	4	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THAT'S SUPER-DUPER! **Solution: 9 letters**

E	L	K	R	O	W	D	O	O	G	D	I	L	O	S
E	G	U	H	A	D	T	E	C	I	O	H	C	N	A
E	N	I	F	C	P	A	U	D	U	O	L	O	E	W
D	E	K	C	I	W	P	E	O	C	X	I	L	H	E
C	E	C	S	F	T	E	R	H	R	T	B	O	Y	S
I	L	L	U	I	A	U	E	O	A	A	O	L	K	O
T	B	Y	O	R	E	E	A	L	V	P	F	O	Y	M
A	A	R	I	R	R	E	U	E	E	E	O	L	E	E
M	D	O	R	E	G	T	I	E	B	Z	E	O	W	Y
S	N	D	O	T	A	L	Y	R	D	V	W	O	G	V
I	E	Y	L	R	E	A	E	A	O	N	W	C	O	O
R	M	K	G	B	R	P	G	L	L	E	W	S	S	O
A	M	N	N	O	U	T	O	P	N	O	T	C	H	R
H	O	U	O	S	S	U	R	P	R	I	S	I	N	G
C	C	H	I	P	H	E	N	O	M	E	N	A	L	T

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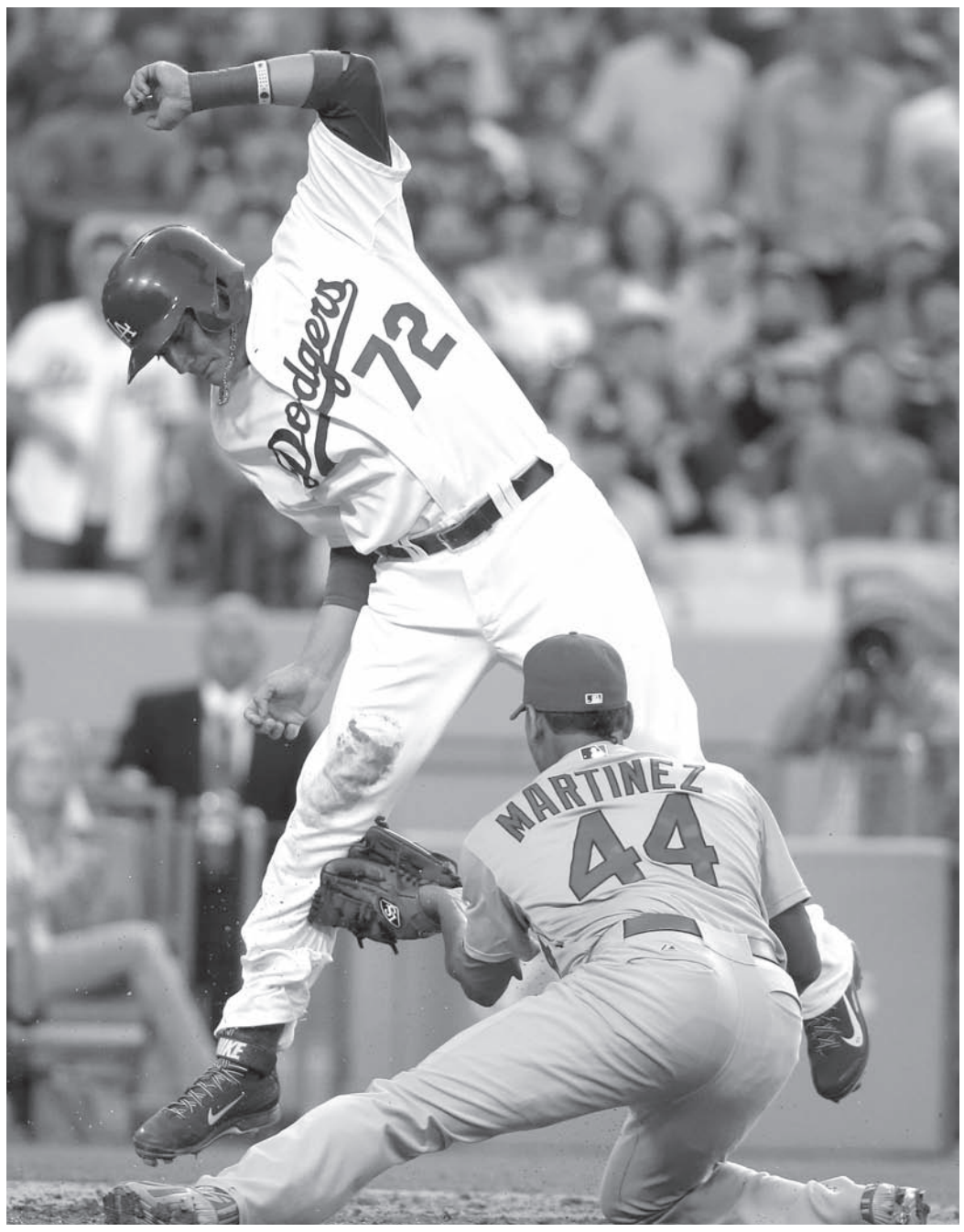
Adams homers in Cardinals win vs Dodgers

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Matt Adams homered in a four-run first inning as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-2 Saturday to send All-Star Zack Greinke to losses in consecutive regular-season starts for the first time since September 2010.

Joe Kelly (2-1) gave up four hits, struck out four and walked one in his second outing since a three-month stint on the disabled list. Trevor Rosenthal got his 30th save when Andre Either grounded into a game-ending double play.

Coming off a July 9 defeat at Detroit, Greinke (11-6) walked a season-high five and gave up four runs and six hits in 5 2-3 innings.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Miguel Rojas, top, is tagged out by St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Carlos Martinez while trying to score on a wild pitch during the second inning of a baseball game Saturday, July 19, 2014, in St.

Pirates3, Rockies 2, 11 innings

In Pittsburgh, Jordy Mercer doubled home Neil Walker with one out in the bottom of the 11th inning to lift Pittsburgh over Colorado.

Walker led off the inning with a single against Chad Bettis (0-2), moved to second on a sacrifice bunt, and scored one batter later when Mercer hit a drive deep into the gap in left-center.

Jared Hughes (5-2) earned the win after escaping a two-on, one-out jam in the 11th by snagging a line drive from Charlie Blackmon and turning it into a double play.

Nationals 8, Brewers 3

In Washington, Matt Garza was pulled out in the first inning of his shortest major league start, and Ryan Zimmerman and Wilson Ramos drove in three runs apiece to lead Washington past Milwaukee.

Garza (6-7) faced eight batters and got just one out, allowing four singles, a double and two walks in the shortest of his 211 big league starts dating to 2006.

Garza had been 4-2 with a 2.35 ERA in his previous eight outings, but his ERA rose from 3.69 to 4.04. He dropped to 0-3 with a 7.33 ERA in six career starts against the Nationals.

Phillies 2, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Cole Hamels held the Braves to four hits through seven innings and Jimmy Rollins hit a two-run homer as Philadelphia edged Atlanta.

Hamels (4-5) won for the second time in three starts, giving up one run, striking out nine and walking none. He threw 71 of 95 pitches for strikes.

Rollins' 12th homer, coming off reliever Shae Simmons (1-1), made it 2-0 in the seventh.

Atlanta, which had a three-game winning streak snapped, cut its deficit to 2-1 in the seventh inning on Chris Johnson's RBI double.

Padres 6, Mets 0

In San Diego, All-Star Tyson Ross threw seven shutout innings as light-hitting San Diego smacked three homers in a victory that ended the New York Mets' four-game winning streak.

Ross (8-10) allowed only four hits in his first start following his first All-Star appearance. He struck out six and issued three walks. Three relievers pitched the final two innings to seal the Padres' seventh shutout.

Giants 5, Marlins 3

In Miami, All-Star Tim Hudson pitched into the eighth inning and got the run support he needed as San Francisco beat Miami.

Hunter Pence drove in two runs, and Pablo Sandoval had three hits for the Giants, who have won four of five.

Giancarlo Stanton hit his National League-best 23rd home run for Miami, which has lost six straight.

Hudson (8-6) came into the game with just five runs of support in his last five starts, but the Giants jumped out to a 5-1 lead in the fourth inning. Hudson allowed one run and eight hits in 7 1-3 innings. He struck out three and didn't walk a batter.

Diamondbacks 9, Cubs 3

In Phoenix, Miguel Montero hit a go-ahead, three-run double in the fifth and Paul Goldschmidt added a two-run homer as Arizona routed the Chicago Cubs.

Goldschmidt went 3 for 3, scored three runs and walked twice, raising his batting average to .314.

Wade Miley (6-6) went seven innings, allowing three runs and seven hits, striking out seven with one walk. He is 3-0 in his last four starts.

Yankees 7, Reds 1

In New York, Brandon McCarthy earned his first win for the Yankees with an impressive debut and Brett Gardner drove in three runs from the leadoff spot to send New York past the Cincinnati Reds 7-1 on Saturday.

Carlos Beltran homered, Kelly Johnson hit a two-run single to back McCarthy (1-0), who allowed one run and six hits, struck out nine and walked none over six innings. McCarthy, acquired from Arizona on July 6, was making his first home start for New York.

Indians 6, Tigers 2
Indians 5, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Carlos Santana hit a tiebreaking, bases-clearing double off Joe Nathan (4-3) with two outs in the ninth to complete a doubleheader sweep. Cleveland has won four straight to pull within 4 1-2 games of the AL Central-leading Tigers.

Carlos Carrasco (3-3) pitched a perfect eighth and Cody Allen closed the game for his 13th save.

In the opener, Corey Kluber (10-6) came within an out of a complete game, striking out 10. He allowed seven hits, including three by Miguel Cabrera.

Blue Jays 4, Rangers 1

In Toronto, Marcus Stroman (5-2) gave up four hits in seven shutout innings to snap a three-start winless streak, and Dan Johnson had two RBIs.

Melky Cabrera had three hits as the Blue Jays won for the first time in four games. Aaron Loup got three outs for his third save.

Colby Lewis (6-7) gave up two runs and eight hits in five innings.

Red Sox 2, Royals 1

In Boston, Rubby De La Rosa (3-2) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings as the defending World Series champions won for the sixth time in seven games.

Mike Napoli hit a tiebreaking homer that cleared a billboard atop the Green Monster seats and completely left the park in the sixth.

Danny Duffy (5-10) allowed two runs — one earned —and six hits in 6 2-3 innings, losing for the fifth time in six starts. Kansas City has lost eight of 11.

Rays 5, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, David Price (10-7) gave up four hits in eight scoreless innings to win five straight starts for the first time in his major league career. He walked none and struck out nine to increase his major league-leading total to 173.

Jake McGee got two outs for his eighth save in nine chances, completing a five-hitter for the Rays, who have won four straight.

Phil Hughes (10-6) allowed five runs and 11 hits in seven innings, matching the most hits against a Twins starter this season.

Orioles 8, Atletics 4

In Oakland, Adam Jones matched his career high of five RBIs to back Chen Wei-yin as Baltimore beat Oakland.

Jones hit a three-run home run in the first and had a two-run single in the fourth. Baltimore's All-Star center fielder also walked and scored in the third.

Chen (10-3) allowed three runs over five innings with four strikeouts in an uneven outing while winning his third consecutive start. The left-hander improved to 4-0 in five career starts against the A's.

Brandon Moss hit his team-leading 22nd home run for Oakland.

Oakland starter Jason Hammel (0-2) gave up five runs in two-plus innings, his second rocky outing since being acquired from the Chicago Cubs along with All-Star pitcher Jeff Samardzija in a trade on July 5.

Mariners 3, Angels 2, 12 innings

In Anaheim, Logan Morrison hit a go-ahead RBI double during Seattle's two-run 12th inning as the Mariners hung on to beat Los Angeles.

The AL West rivals played extra innings for the second straight night, less than 24 hours after the Angels won the series opener 3-2 in 16 innings.

Los Angeles remained 1 1/2 games behind AL West-leading Oakland.

Joe Thatcher (0-1) gave up a leadoff double in the 12th to Kyle Seager before Morrison drove him in with a hit down the left field line. Pinch-hitter Justin Smoak drove in pinch-runner Willie Bloomquist with an infield hit.

White Sox 4, Astros 3

In Chicago, Tyler Flowers had three hits and drove in the go-ahead run in the fifth.

White Sox starter Hector Noesi (4-7) gave up three runs in six innings, and Zach Putnam earned his third save and second in two nights.

George Springer hit his 20th home run, a solo shot, and Jose Altuve had a two-run double for the Astros.

Dallas Keuchel (9-6) allowed four runs and 12 hits in five innings.

LeBron undecided on jersey No. 6 or 23

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James has to make another big decision.

The NBA superstar turned to social media Friday to help him choose which number he'll wear next season with the Cavaliers. James wrote "6 or 23...." on his Twitter account and posted photos on Instagram of him wearing No. 6 and No. 23 wine and gold Cavs jerseys.

James wore No. 6 during his four seasons with Miami and also on the U.S. Olympic team. He used No. 23 in high school and during seven seasons in Cleveland.

James has had the top-selling jersey in the NBA six times during his career.

His return to Cleveland has given the city a boost, and the Cavs quickly sold out their seasons tickets in the hours after his announcement. James signed a two-year, $42.1 million contract last week.

The 29-year-old will be welcomed back to his hometown of Akron on Aug. 8, his family's foundation announced Friday. The "Welcome Home LeBron Community Rally" will be held at InfoCision Stadium on the University of Akron's campus. The rally, following James' annual "Wheels for Education" event, will be James' first public appearance since he chose to re-sign with the Cavaliers over the Heat.

James recently returned from Brazil, where he watched the World Cup final between Germany and Argentina. He's scheduled to take a Nike-sponsored trip to China in the next few weeks.

Meanwhile, Andrew Wiggins came to summer league to get an early education on the NBA game, from playing against better competition to learning about what his new coach with the Cleveland Cavaliers will demand of him as a pro.

McIlroy builds 6-shot lead at British Open

AP

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland celebrates after playing an eagle on the 16th hole during the third day of the British Open Golf championship at the Royal Liverpool golf club, Hoylake, England, Saturday July 19, 2014.

HOYLAKE, England (AP)—Rory McIlroy looked as though he had just thrown a knockout punch at the British Open, and it was only Saturday.

When he rolled in a 10-foot eagle putt on the final hole for a 4-under 68, he straightened his back, stared defiantly at thousands of fans crammed into the horseshoe arena around the 18th green at Royal Liverpool and lightly pumped his fist.

He went from being tied for the lead to six shots ahead of Rickie Fowler in just over an hour.

And suddenly, the biggest challenge facing the 25-year-old from Northern Ireland was reminding himself that he had one more round left.

McIlroy can't afford to picture his name etched on the base of that silver claret jug. He can't think about what it will be like next April to drive down Magnolia Lane at Augusta National with a shot at becoming the sixth player to capture the career Grand Slam.

"I'm not taking anything for granted," McIlroy said.

He knows that from experience, good and bad. He blew a four-shot lead at the Masters in 2011 and shot 80 in the final round. He had an eight-shot lead at the U.S. Open two months later and set two scoring records to win by eight. And just two months ago, McIlroy came from seven shots behind to win by seven.

It looks like a lost cause for Fowler, Sergio Garcia and anyone else trying to chase down a guy who has won both his majors by eight shots. The six-shot lead was the largest at The Open since Tiger Woods led by six at St. Andrews in 2000.

Even so, McIlroy was doing his best to preach caution.

"A lot can happen," he said. "And I've been on the right side of it and I've been on the wrong side of it. You can't let yourself think forward. You've just got to completely stay in the moment, and that's what I'm going to try to do for all 18 holes tomorrow."

History is on his side.

No one has ever lost a six-shot lead in the 121 years that The Open has been contested over 72 holes. Boy Wonder would not seem to be a candidate.

"What you have with him is he's just so explosive," Jim Furyk said after a 71 left him 10 shots behind. "He won the U.S. Open by eight shots. He obviously doesn't have any issue as the front-runner, and has no issue trying to extend that lead, much like Tiger used to."

McIlroy was at 16-under 200.

"If I'm able to go out and get off to a good start, maybe I can put a little bit of pressure on him," Fowler said after a 68. "Because he's definitely in control of the golf tournament right now."

Fowler tried to do his part on a cloudy Saturday with occasional rain, but not nearly what the R&A expected when it went to a two-tee start of the first time in history. Fowler, who was six shots behind going into the third round, ran off three straight birdies to start the back nine and shared the lead when McIlroy made bogey on No. 12.

It all changed so quickly.

Fowler made a bogey on the 14th hole. McIlroy, playing in the group behind, drilled a 35-foot birdie putt that put his lead back to two shots.

"Rickie was just getting close to me," McIlroy said. "I could hear the cheers in front of me. I just wanted to get ahead. To hole a putt like that was huge."

And that's when he turned it on.

McIlroy blasted a drive on the par-5 16th hole and hit 4-iron from 252 yards over a pot bunker to the left side of the green and made a 15-foot eagle putt. That restored his lead to five shots, for Fowler had driven into a pot bunker and made a bogey.

Fowler recovered with a superb shot out of the pot bunker on the 18th to tap-in range for birdie. That put the American into the final group for the second straight major, both times a long way out of the lead. He trailed Martin Kaymer by five shots going into the last day of the U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2.

Fowler didn't get closer than four shots from Kaymer in the final round.

Garcia, who played in final group with Woods at Royal Liverpool in 2006, certainly had his chances. He was only three shots behind at the turn until missing a short birdie putt on No. 12 and failing to convert so many other chances. Garcia had a 69 and was seven shots behind, along with Dustin Johnson (71).

"It's going to be difficult," Garcia said. "But we'll give it a shot."

This was Rory's show, just like it was at Congressional, just like it was at Kiawah Island when he won the 2012 PGA Championship.

And yet the biggest crowd belonged to Woods, the sport's biggest star who is playing his first major since back surgery four months ago. Woods narrowly made the cut on Friday, opened with two straight birdies and that was about all the excitement. He made another double bogey, another triple bogey and shot 73.

Woods was 19 shots out of the lead.

The biggest challenge for McIlroy might be to avoid looking ahead. It was hard. Asked what it would mean to be one major away from a Grand Slam at 25, McIlroy said, "It would mean a lot of hype going into Augusta next year."

"I'd be in pretty illustrious company," he said.

Woods shows his rust on rough day at Hoylake

HOYLAKE, England (AP)—As his tee shot curled farther and farther away from the 17th fairway, heading toward all sorts of trouble, Tiger Woods simply stuffed his club in the bag.

He appeared to mumble something to himself, but that was about it.

No fiery outburst. No coarse language. No complaints about someone talking too loud, or being on the phone, or snapping a picture.

Shoulders slumping, Woods looked as though he had accepted his fate.

There won't be a 15th major championship.

Not at this British Open.

Woods needed a birdie at the final hole—his only one of the day—just to make the cut. He walked off the 18th with a 5-over 77, his worst Open round since that stormy day at Muirfield in 2002, and headed to the weekend a staggering 14 shots behind the leader, Rory McIlroy.

"Not very good," Woods said.

Indeed, it wasn't.

Woods made double-bogey at the first hole, a bogey at the second. Just like that, all the good vibes from a 69 in the opening round were wiped away, his score tumbling to even par. From there, it was a grind—14 pars in a row as McIlroy pulled away.

Then came the 17th, where Woods made such a mess of things, he nearly missed the cut at a major for only the fourth time in his professional career. That aforementioned tee shot sailed out of bounds right of the fairway, though Woods didn't realize it until he had walked some 150 yards toward his ball.

Back to the tee box he trudged, to hit another after taking a one-stroke penalty. This time, Woods yanked it off in the tall grass to the left, between the 16th and 17th fairways. Four more shots were required to finish off a triple-bogey 7 that nearly finished off his hopes of getting in two more much-needed rounds.

Clearly, Woods is rusty after undergoing back surgery on March 31. He missed the Masters and the U.S. Open, finally returning to action at Congressional three weeks ago. He missed the cut in that event, and his opening round at Hoylake—five birdies in six holes on the back side - was merely an aberration.

There's a lot of work to do.

"I had some opportunities to make a few birdies along the way to get back to even par for the day, and I just never did," Woods said. "I just never made anything. I had myself in good positions to make birdies, and I just didn't do it."

More distressing for those in the Woods camp, his body language looked more and more defeated as McIlroy kept adding to what was a mere three-shot lead over Woods at the start of the round.

Woods sounded downright delusional when he brought up Paul Lawrie's comeback from a 10-shot deficit on the final day at Carnoustie in 1999.

That, of course, required Jean Van de Velde to essentially give the tournament away on the 72nd hole.

Hard to see McIlroy making such a blunder—and, even if he did, Woods' game being in any sort of shape to take advantage of it.

Majka earns Pole position on Tour's 14th stage

RISOUL, France (AP)—Panting hard with his jersey unzipped and wide open in the heat, Polish rider Rafal Majka sped to a solo breakaway victory on Stage 14 as the Tour de France wrapped up its foray in the Alps on Saturday.

The two stages were expected to shake up the standings, but Vincenzo Nibali was not only still wearing the yellow jersey, he was farther out front.

In a flip of their finishes a day earlier in the race's entree to the Alps when Nibali won, the Pole and the Italian crossed one-two after the 177-kilometer (110-mile) ride over the 2,360-meter (7,742-foot) Izoard pass - the race's highest point - and a final ascent up to Risoul ski station.

Majka's victory was the first on this Tour by his Tinkoff-Saxo Bank team, which lost main leader Alberto Contador when he crashed out injured on Stage 10.

Majka was not a threat to Nibali: He began the day 97 minutes behind the race leader, who has carried out a methodical, chipping-away strategy against his biggest challengers for the yellow jersey.

"I am really very happy," Majka, who was sixth in the Giro d'Italia this year, said of his first professional victory after chucking his stage winner's bouquet to the crowd. He became only the second Polish rider to win a Tour stage, after Zenon Jaskula in 1993. "I am a little tired, but ... I had a calm first week to help Alberto. It broke my heart to see him leave."

Team owner Oleg Tinkov, a Russian businessman, choked up, wiped his nose, and put on sunglasses.

"We lost Alberto, we had to win," he said through a translator on French TV. "Rafal is a marvelous young rider. We will come back to try to win the Tour one day."

Majka said he did not believe speculation that Tinkoff-Saxo Bank selected him among its nine Tour riders only after the team suspended Czech rider Roman Kreuziger. Just days before announcing its Tour roster last month, the team suspended Kreuziger from competing any more this year because of anomalies in his biological passport, which cycling officials use to fight doping. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Majka, who said he was tired after the strong Giro performance, said he was given assurances by team managers that "you'll do the Tour, but you'll take it easy in the first week," he said. "It's also wrong to think that I'm doing the Tour because Roman Kreuziger isn't. Had he been able to start, we would have both been part of the team."

Victor Petri, a team spokesman, confirmed Majka was in contention for a roster spot before the Kreuziger case.

Swimmers excited to plunge into action

8TH MICRO GAMES 2014 POHNPEI FSM

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coach Jacoby Winkield, third from left, and the CNMI's four swimmers pose with the CNMI flag before leaving Saipan last week for the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

After days of testing the waters at the improved PNI Swimming Pool, the CNMI's swimmers are all set for today's races.

"We were able to get practice times at the pool since last Monday. It is a beautify facility with the lush Pohnpeian forest in the backdrop. The kids swim well, looked good, and are eagerly waiting the 21st," said coach Jacoby Winkfield in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Winkfield has four swimmers—Kento Akimaru, Takumi Sugie, Christian Villacrusis, and Victoria Chentsova—competing in the three-day tournament at the pool. Today, Akimaru, Chentsova, and Sugie race in the 100m back, while Villacrusis participates in the 200m individual medley. Akimaru and Chentsova are also entered in the 50m butterfly races. Day 1 events will have its preliminary races in the morning, while the finals are set for the afternoon.

After her two events in the opening day, Chentsova will have five more races—the 100m, 400m, 200m and 800m freestyle, and 50m backstroke. Villacrusis's other races are 50m, 200m and 100m freestyle and 50m and 100m breaststroke, while Sugie still have the 50m, 100m, 200, and 400m freestyle, and 200m backstroke. Akimaru will swim, too in the 50m, 100m, and 400m freestyle, 50m and 100m breaststroke, 100m butterfly, and 400m IM.

The CNMI swimmers were the first delegates from the Commonwealth to arrive in Pohnpei and they were thankful for the warm welcome they got from the host state.

"We arrived in Pohnpei yesterday afternoon (last Monday) to a ruckus crowd of supporters, families, and Pohnpeians eager for the Games. It was a first class welcoming and we are excited to meet and mingle with the athletes from the other delegations," Winkfield said.

As for the competition, Winkfield said the swimmers have trained and worked for this event and the outcome will speak for how they prepared.

"These games provide our young athletes the platform to be exposed to other island cultures and swim at a high level," he added.

GORU

From Page 28

and eight feet long) than *Goru's*, but the latter's was wider and beefier.

Marlin Chasers found its gems in the reef at the Chalan Kanoa area also around 3pm. Captain Bob Taguchi had anglers Gary Peterson and Tim Chen helping him out bring the catch out of the water.

Yesterday's two 200-plus marlin surpassed the 169.15 caught by Day 1 leader *Regulator* and the 2013 winning catch of *Luka & Ben*. *Luka & Ben*, who reeled in a 221.5-lb marlin to beat more than 40 boats for the grand prize, came in at second after last Saturday's competition, as it reached the dock with its 149.65-lb catch.

Guam's *Emmanuel*, which holds the record of the heaviest catch in the tournament with its mammoth 942-lb marlin in 2012, breaking the 14-year-old record of *Love Boat* (624.34 lbs/1997) and bringing home a bonus $10,000 cash, was without a big catch in Day 1 of the competition. The Guam boat skippered by Mike James was seen docking at Smiling Cove Marina about 30 minutes before the 6pm cutoff time and results of its final day hunt were unavailable at press time.

Meanwhile, 60 boats joined the two-day competition and winners in the various categories will be announced in tonight's awards banquet at the Pacific Islands Club. The Top 3 finishers in the marlin, yellowfin and skipjack tuna, wahoo, and mahi will be awarded with trophies and other prizes. The grand prize winner (*Goru*) and the total weight winner will also get recognition in tonight's awards ceremony.

MICRO GAMES

From Page 28

tional Gymnasium, four men's division matches and three in the women's are slated in Day 1. The CNMI faces Palau in the men's division tiff at 2pm, while the Commonwealth's cagebelles take on the hosts at 6pm.

"We just have to take it one game at a time and stay focus. We have the talent and the desire to win, but these will not produce good results for us if we will not keep our head in the game at hand and move away from the game plan," said Preston Basa, who co-captains the CNMI Men's National Team with Micro Games returnee Dan Barcinas.

Completing the 12-man squad are Christian Mizer, Jason Lampkin, Bryle Alegre, Jimmy Tudela, Ezra Caro Leowell Cristobal, Jack Lizama, Marvin Rabauliman, Jawn Joyner, and Fred Litulumar.

Basa and company are hoping to redeem the CNMI men's team from a dismal performance in the last Micro Games in Palau where the squad finished sixth in the ranking.

"We will do our best to make it to the medal podium this time," Basa said.

The Commonwealth's women's team is aiming a return trip to the finals.

"We've been going into the finals in the last four Micro Games, won in 2006, so hopefully we will get the gold medal back this year," said Connie Camacho, the co-captain of the squad. Teresita Sablan is the other captain of the team.

"I believe we have a strong chance to make it to the finals again and even win the gold medal because we have a deeper bench compared to the last team we had in Palau. They can provide the starters quality minutes," Camacho added.

Joining Camacho and Sablan on the squad are Lia Rangamar, Irish Pagarao, Ira Palero, Lilly Williams, Jamie Mendoza, Rachel Abrams, Madeleine Alegre, Marie Javier, Antonette Labausa, and Michelle Kautz. Elias Rangamar coaches both teams with Heartim Williams assisting him on the men's squad and Basa on the women's side.

Elias Rangamar is also one of the coaches of the CNMI athletics team and his track stars will join 18 events in today's opening of the athletics competition at the PNI Track and Field Facility.

Zarinae Mae Sapong and Friendly Joy Pena will have the most events in Day 1, as they both race in the 200m and 400m runs and enter the long jump contest. Rachel Abrams is the CNMI's third bet in the 200m run and the lone one in the 100m hurdles. Michael Mancao and Beo Ngirchongor are both racing in the 400m and the latter will add the 200m to his list of events. Tony Ichiou is the CNMI's other entry to the 200m run, while Jessie James will participate in the 10,000m race.

In the throwing events, Lia Rangamar debuts in the javelin throw, while Sylvan Rangamar, Daniel Joab, and Ron Olopai compete in the discus. Seiya Eda, Denis Samson, Dylan Ackerman, Doris Rangamar, Jaynard White, and Jason Lampkin are the other members of the team and will be competing in the last two days of the athletics events.

Meanwhile, though baseball competition starts today, the CNMI will not be playing until tomorrow when it faces Palau at Daini Field at 9am (8am Saipan time). Today's opening game has the host challenging the defending champion Palau at 9am, while Guam duels Kosrae in the second match at 1pm.

The CNMI Baseball Team was the second group from the Commonwealth to arrive in Pohnpei, making it to the host state last Friday. The swim squad was the first one, as it has been in Pohnpei since last Monday.

The Commonwealth's canoe, weightlifting, and spearfishing teams will arrive in Pohnpei mid this week.

Roach: Algieri difficult foe

Many boxing pundits are quick to dismiss Chris Algieri as a worthy challenger to Manny Pacquiao's World Boxing Organization welterweight crown.

Not Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's mentor.

The Hall of Fame trainer told the South China Morning Post Friday that the unbeaten Algieri (20-0, 8 knockouts) will be "very difficult to fight" on Nov. 23 at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena.

While Roach believes Pacquiao can take care of the 5-foot-11 Algieri's 4 1/2-inch height advantage, the six-time Trainer of the Year said that his prized ward needs "to come a lot closer" to take control of the bout, set at a catchweight of 144 pounds.

In his previous bout last month, Algieri stunned Russian Ruslan Provodnikov, whom Roach also trains, to snatch the WBO light welterweight crown (140 lb).

According to Roach, Algieri deserves the title crack against Pacquiao.

"He fought Ruslan and won. Algieri is undefeated [20-0, 8 KOs] and he's got a good record," said Roach. "He's in good shape. It's not going to be an easy fight."

After convincingly exacting vengeance on Timothy Bradley on April 12, Pacquiao will bring his act again to the Cotai Arena, where he dominated Brandon Rios last November. ***(PDI)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	53	43	.552	—
New York	49	47	.510	4
Toronto	50	48	.510	4
Tampa Bay	46	53	.465	8½
Boston	45	52	.464	8½

Central Division

Detroit	53	41	.564	—
Cleveland	50	47	.515	4½
Kansas City	48	48	.500	6
Chicago	47	51	.480	8
Minnesota	44	52	.458	10

West Division

Oakland	60	37	.619	—
Los Angeles	58	38	.604	1½
Seattle	52	45	.536	8
Houston	40	58	.408	20½
Texas	39	58	.402	21

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	52	43	.547	—
Atlanta	53	44	.546	—
New York	46	51	.474	7
Miami	44	52	.458	8½
Philadelphia	43	54	.443	10

Central Division

Milwaukee	54	44	.551	—
St. Louis	54	44	.551	—
Cincinnati	51	46	.526	2½
Pittsburgh	51	46	.526	2½
Chicago	40	56	.417	13

West Division

San Francisco	54	43	.557	—
Los Angeles	54	45	.545	1
San Diego	42	55	.433	12
Arizona	42	56	.429	12½
Colorado	40	57	.412	14

BRITISH OPEN SCORES

HOYLAKE, England (AP) — Scores Saturday in the British Open at 7,312-yard, par-72 Royal Liverpool Golf Club:

Third Round

Rory McIlroy	66-66-68	—200
Rickie Fowler	69-69-68	—206
Sergio Garcia	68-70-69	—207
Dustin Johnson	71-65-71	—207
Victor Dubuisson	74-66-68	—208
Edoardo Molinari	68-73-68	—209
Matteo Manassero	67-75-68	—210
Adam Scott	68-73-69	—210
Jim Furyk	68-71-71	—210
Robert Karlsson	69-71-70	—210
Charl Schwartzel	71-67-72	—210
Darren Clarke	72-72-67	—211
Graeme McDowell	74-69-68	—211
Justin Rose	72-70-69	—211
Marc Leishman	69-72-70	—211
Jimmy Walker	69-71-71	—211
Marc Warren	71-68-72	—211
Ryan Moore	70-68-73	—211
Byeong-Hun An	72-71-69	—212
Branden Grace	71-72-69	—212
Stephen Gallacher	70-72-70	—212
David Howell	72-70-70	—212
Keegan Bradley	73-71-69	—213
Kristoffer Broberg	70-73-70	—213
Chris Kirk	71-74-68	—213
Shane Lowry	68-75-70	—213
Brian Harman	72-73-68	—213
George Coetzee	70-69-74	—213
Francesco Molinari	68-70-75	—213
Jordan Spieth	71-75-67	—213
Ben Martin	71-73-70	—214
David Hearn	70-73-71	—214
Louis Oosthuizen	70-68-76	—214
Phil Mickelson	74-70-71	—215
Bill Haas	70-72-73	—215
Angel Cabrera	76-69-70	—215
Kevin Streelman	72-74-69	—215
Thongchai Jaidee	72-72-72	—216
D.A. Points	75-69-72	—216
Gary Woodland	75-69-72	—216
Hunter Mahan	71-73-72	—216
Kevin Stadler	73-72-71	—216
Hideki Matsuyama	69-74-73	—216
Kevin Na	76-70-70	—216
Chris Rodgers	73-71-73	—217
Martin Kaymer	73-72-72	—217
Matt Jones	71-74-72	—217
Thomas Bjorn	70-71-76	—217
Brandt Snedeker	74-72-71	—217
Zach Johnson	71-75-71	—217
Luke Donald	73-73-71	—217
Jason Dufner	70-74-74	—218
Gregory Bourdy	75-69-74	—218
Matt Kuchar	73-71-74	—218
Chris Wood	75-70-73	—218
Paul Casey	74-71-73	—218
Henrik Stenson	72-73-73	—218
Brooks Koepka	68-77-74	—219
Stewart Cink	71-75-73	—219
Thorbjorn Olesen	75-71-73	—219
Matt Every	75-71-73	—219
Tiger Woods	69-77-73	—219
John Senden	71-74-75	—220
Brendon Todd	73-73-74	—220
Jason Day	73-73-74	—220
Koumei Oda	69-77-74	—220
Rhein Gibson	72-74-74	—220
Billy Hurley III	73-72-76	—221
Ryan Palmer	74-71-76	—221
Jamie McLeary	73-73-75	—221
Tom Watson	73-73-75	—221
Charley Hoffman	74-72-76	—222

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

CNMI athletes test skills in off-island competitions

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI teams left one after another to represent the Commonwealth to regional competitions.

Swimming's Victoria Chentsova, Christian Villacrusis, Kento Akimaru, Takumi Sugie and coach Jacoby Winkfield were the first ones to leave early Monday morning last week to participate in the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

Next to pack their bags were the CNMI's men's and women's football teams, which left for Guam to compete in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup. The men's team has 18 players in Johann Noetzel, Jonathan Takano, Ethan Dickinson, Trey Dunn, Joe Miler, John Taisacan, Jonathan Takano, Jireh Yobech, Joel Fruit, Daniel Agulto, Sean Perez, Ruselle Zapanta, Jehn Joyner, Kennedy Izuka, Nick Swaim, Lucas Knecht, Bo Barry, Kirk Schuler, and Dae Won Jeon. Kiyoshi Sekiguchi is the team's head coach, while Taketomo Suzuki and goalkeeper coach Hon Kit Cheng are assisting him. Completing the squad are team manager Joon Seoung Lee and physiotherapist Jungsang Park.

The Commonwealth's women's team also has 18 players in Jhaneeka Atalig, Elaine Enriquez, Emily Maxberry, Michelle Masga, Carrie Schuler, Mikky Vargas, Marielle Gariguez, Jeraldine and Jeralyn Castillo, Megan Silberberger, Melody Johnson, Alexa Vergara, Diane Pablo, Thea Minor, Elizabeth Phan, Gabrielle Race, Krizelle Mae Tuazon, and Chevy Kate Alipio. Luam Khen Koo is the head coach with Wai Wo Lee assisting him, while Chi Ming Tang is the goalkeeper coach. Mae Angeline Ito and Pam Carhill are the team manager and physiotherapist, respectively.

Also leaving last week were the CNMI's baseball, basketball, and athletics teams and they went to Pohnpei for the Micro Games. Joshua Jones, Jeremy Rabauliman, Manny Sablan, Byron Kaipat, Tyrone Omar, Vince Cepeda, Ben Jones Jr, Jerome Delos Santos, Roy Celis, Ian Rogolifoi, Brian Camacho, Rocco Reyes, Jared Sablan, Diego Camacho, Jun Rabauliman, Peter Lieto, Joe Palacios, Jr., Greg Iskawa, Anthony Benavente, Tom Camacho, Patrick Alepuyo, and Chris Camacho made up the baseball team, which has Tony Rogolifoi as manager and Mel Sakisat as coach.

Men's basketball has Preston Basa, Dan Barcinas Christian Mizer, Jason Lampkin, Bryle Alegre, Jimmy Tudela, Ezra Caro Leowell Cristobal, Jack Lizama, Marvin Rabauliman, Jawn Joyner, and Fred Litulumar as players and Elias Rangamar as coach. Rangamar also coaches the women's squad, which is composed of Connie Camacho, Teresita Sablan, Lia Rangamar, Irish Pagarao, Ira Palero, Lilly Williams, Jamie Mendoza, Rachel Abrams, Madeleine Alegre, Marie Javier, Antonette Labausa, and Michelle Kautz.

Abrams, Lia Rangamar, and Lampkin are also members of the athletics teams and are joined by Denise Samson, Friendly Joy Pena, Zarinae Sapong, Beo Ngirchongor, Brandon Phillip, Dylan Ackerman, Seiya Eda, Michael Mancao, Doris Rangamar, Sylvan Rangamar, Ronald Olopai, Antonio Ichiou, Jesse James, Dan Joab, and Jaynard White.

Meanwhile, two basketball leagues kicked off on Saipan. The Emon Lodge masters caging started last Monday with seven teams entered in the 40-and-above contest. The list includes Mariana Resort, PIC Chefs, Blue Haus, Hawaiian Rock, Armatech, D&Q Degree, and Armatech.

In the revived Budweiser Inter-Hotel caging, which opened shop last Tuesday, there are also seven squads in Pacific Islands Club, World Resort, Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Mariana Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Century Hotel/Shirley's Coffee Shop.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Some members of the CNMI Baseball Team pose for a photo while waiting for their connecting flight from Guam to Pohnpei last Friday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Century Hotel/Shirley's Coffee Shop's Sean Rabasto tries to tap the ball away from World Resort's Kae Bernardo during their game in the Budweiser Inter-Hotel caging last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Players and coaches of the CNMI Women's Basketball Team gather for a team photo last Saturday before leaving for Pohnpei. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Brian Manabat pulls up for a jumper against Hawaiian Rock's Jack Palacios during their game in the Emon Lodge masters caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players and officials of the CNMI Men's National Team pose for a photo after a send-off ceremony at Kanoa Resort last week for their participation in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup in Guam.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players and officials of the CNMI Women's National Team pose for a photo after a send-off ceremony at Kanoa Resort last week for their participation in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup in Guam.

Adams homers in Cardinals win vs Dodgers

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

McIlroy builds 6-shot lead at British Open

PAGE 25

Goru rules SFA fishing tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Thanks to Saipan fishermen, *Goru* landed the heaviest single catch in the 30th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament—a 276-lb marlin.

"We came to the dock empty handed last Saturday. This morning, Saipan fishermen advised us to check the Esmeralda Bank," boat captain Frank Roberto said.

Roberto and his crew, which includes his 12-year-old son Aaron and friend Frankie Meno, picked up the prized catch north of Esmeralda Bank at around 3pm and brought it to the weigh station at the Smiling Cove Marina around 5pm.

"We got an almost similar big marlin last Saturday, but we lost it. This time, we did not let that unfortunate thing to happen. We thank Saipan fisherman for their tip about the good spot to catch big marlins," added the older Roberto, who donated the winning catch to the event's awards banquet in honor of his Saipan-born grandfather Goru.

A crane was needed to haul *Goru's* winning marlin, which came a few minutes after Tinian's *Marlin Chasers'* catch hit the scale and registered 269lbs. *Marlin Chasers'* marlin was longer (between seven

See GORU on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, *Goru* anglers Frankie Meno and Aaron Roberto and captain Frank Roberto pose with their winning catch, a 276-lb marlin, yesterday at the weigh station at Smiling Cove Marina during the last day of the 30th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

Micro Games opens; CNMI kicks off bid today

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's coaches and athletes competing in track and field contest in the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei pose for a group photo at the Oleai Sports Complex last Saturday.

8TH MICRO GAMES 2014
POHNPEI FSM

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI basketball and athletics teams left Saipan yesterday in time for the start of the competition in the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei today.

The members of the Commonwealth's men's and women's basketball squads left in batches and several of them were scheduled to reach the host state Sunday morning and join the CNMI baseball and swimming teams in the opening ceremony of the Games. The opening rites were set for 5pm (4pm Saipan time) with athletes and officials from the host state, Yap, Kosrae, Chuuk, Guam, Palau, Nauru, and the Marshall Islands participating in the traditional parade of teams. The CNMI delegation is headed by chef de mission and Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White and NMASA vice president Kurt Barnes and baseball's Rose Igitol, who are assistant chef de mission.

Baseball, basketball, athletics, and swimming will have their first day of contest today at the various sports facilities in Pohnpei. At the COM-FSM Na-

See MICRO GAMES on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players and coaches of the CNMI men's and women's basketball teams pose for a photo last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium after the final briefing for their trip to Pohnpei, which will host CNMI athletes competing in the 8th Micronesian Games.